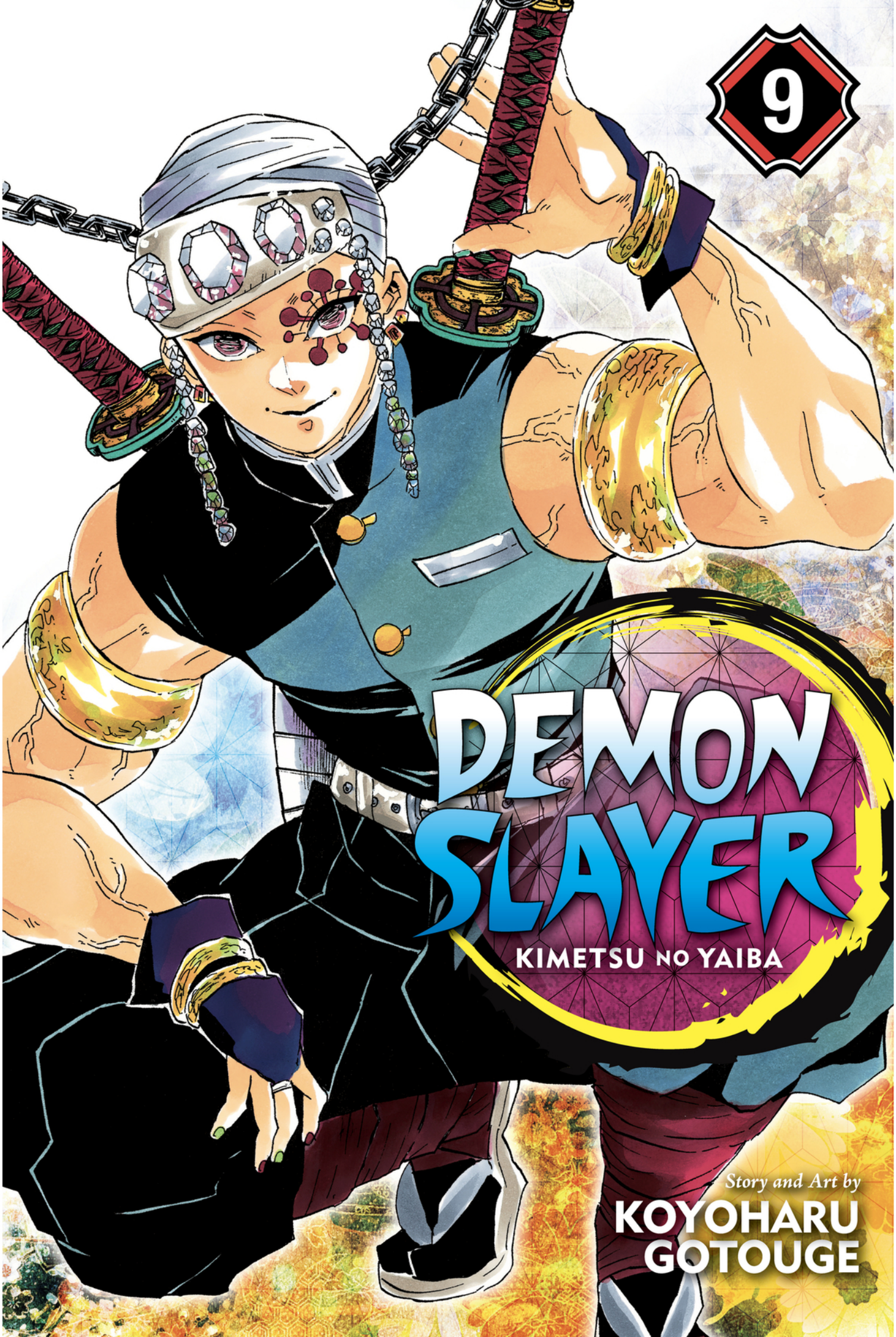
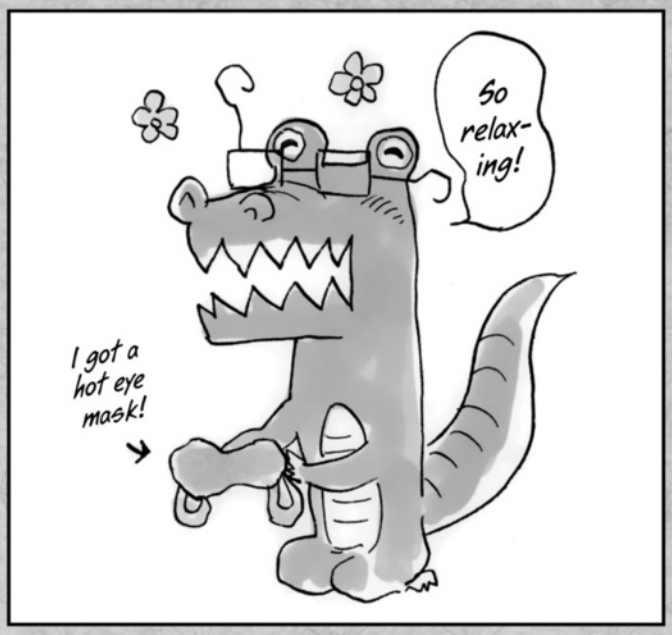

9
DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE



KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

Hello! I'm Gotouge. Volume 9 is out. Thank you very much to everyone who helps me and cheers me on. If no one read the manga, it would just be a pile of paper, so for people to take it in their hands and open it up is a great honor. I hope for your happiness as I fire the cannon of gratefulness! I always pray for the good fortune of everyone who is kind to this author whose glasses are always askew.

DEMON SLAYER:
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
VOLUME 9
Shonen Jump Edition

Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA

9

OPERATION: ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

CHARACTERS

TANJIRO KAMADO

A kind boy who saved his younger sister and now aims to avoid his family. He can smell the scent of demons and an opponent's weakness.

NEZUKO KAMADO

Tanjiro's younger sister. A demon attacked her and turned her into a demon. But unlike other demons, she fights her urges and tries to protect Tanjiro.

INOSUKE HASHIBIRA

He also went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He wears the pelt of a wild boar and is very belligerent.

ZENITSU AGATSUMA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He's usually cowardly, but when he falls asleep, his true power comes out.

GYU TOMIOKA

The Hashira who invited Tanjiro to join the Demon Slayer Corps. He has always cared about Tanjiro.

KYOJURO RENGOKU

A Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. He died fighting against the upper-rank demon Akaza.

KANAO TSUYURI

Successor to Shinobu. She doesn't talk much and has difficulty making any kind of decision by herself.

SHINOBU KOCHO

Another Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. Familiar with pharmacology, she is a swords-woman who has created a poison that kills demons.

TENGEN UZUI

The Sound Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps and a former shinobi who likes things to be flashy. Uzui sneaks Tanjiro and the others into an entertainment district that's home to a demon.

MUZAN KIBUTSUJI

Kibutsuji turned Nezuko into a demon. He is Tanjiro's enemy and hides his nature in order to live among human beings.

STORY

In Taisho-era Japan, young Tanjiro makes a living selling charcoal. One day, demons kill his family and turn his younger sister Nezuko into a demon. Tanjiro and Nezuko set out to find a way to return Nezuko to human form and defeat Kibutsuji, the demon who killed their family!

After joining the Demon Slayer Corps, Tanjiro meets Tamayo and Yushiro—demons who oppose Kibutsuji—who provide a clue to how Nezuko may be turned back into a human. On a new mission, Tanjiro boards a steam train and joins up with Rengoku, the Flame Hashira. A lower-rank demon attacks the train, but they are able to protect the passengers and defeat the demon. However, the upper-rank demon Akaza appears and defeats Rengoku. Tanjiro survives the encounter and embarks on a new mission with the Sound Hashira, Uzui!

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DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA

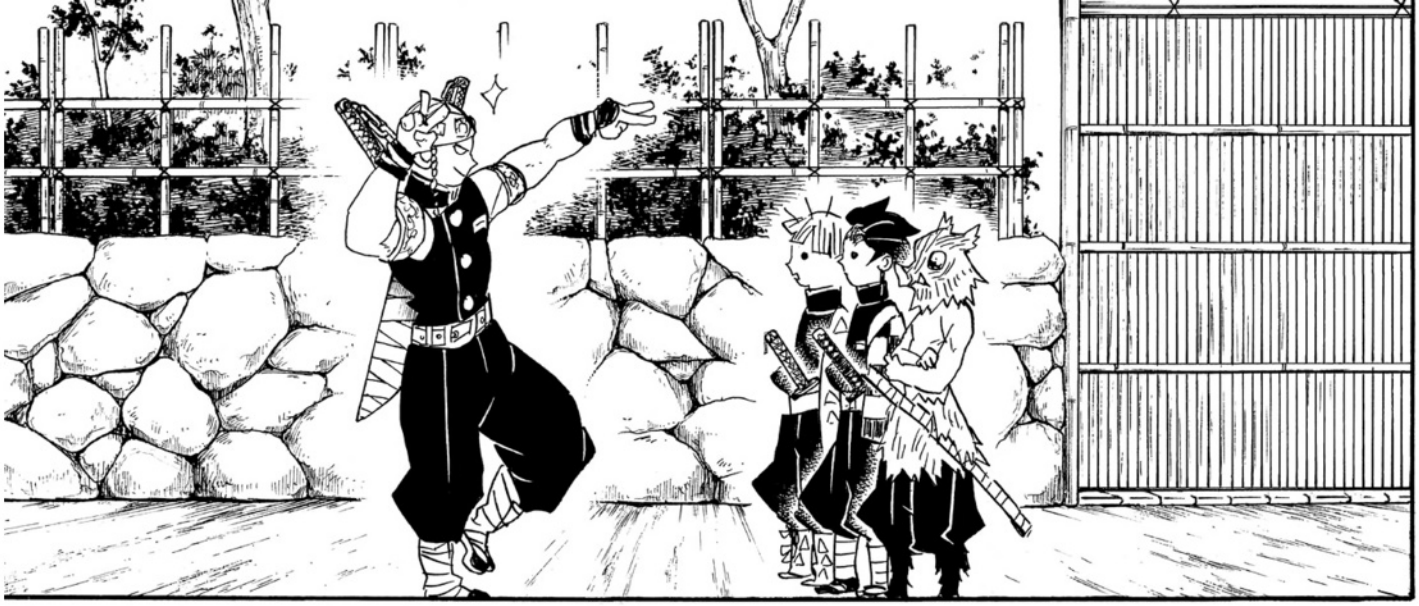
9

OPERATION: ENTER-TAINMENT DISTRICT

CHAPTER 71:
OPERATION:
ENTERTAINMENT
DISTRICT

ALL RIGHT... I AM A GOD! YOU GUYS ARE TRASH!
IF I SAY BE A DOG, YOU ACT LIKE A DOG! IF I SAY BE A MONKEY, ACT LIKE A MONKEY!!
FIRST, GET THAT INTO YOUR HEADS! DRILL IT IN THERE!
FIRST AND FOREMOST, YOU MUST PLEASE ME! BOW AND SCRAPE AND AVERT YOUR EYES! YOU TOADIES ARE MINE, BODY AND SOUL!

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN...
I AM A *GOD!*



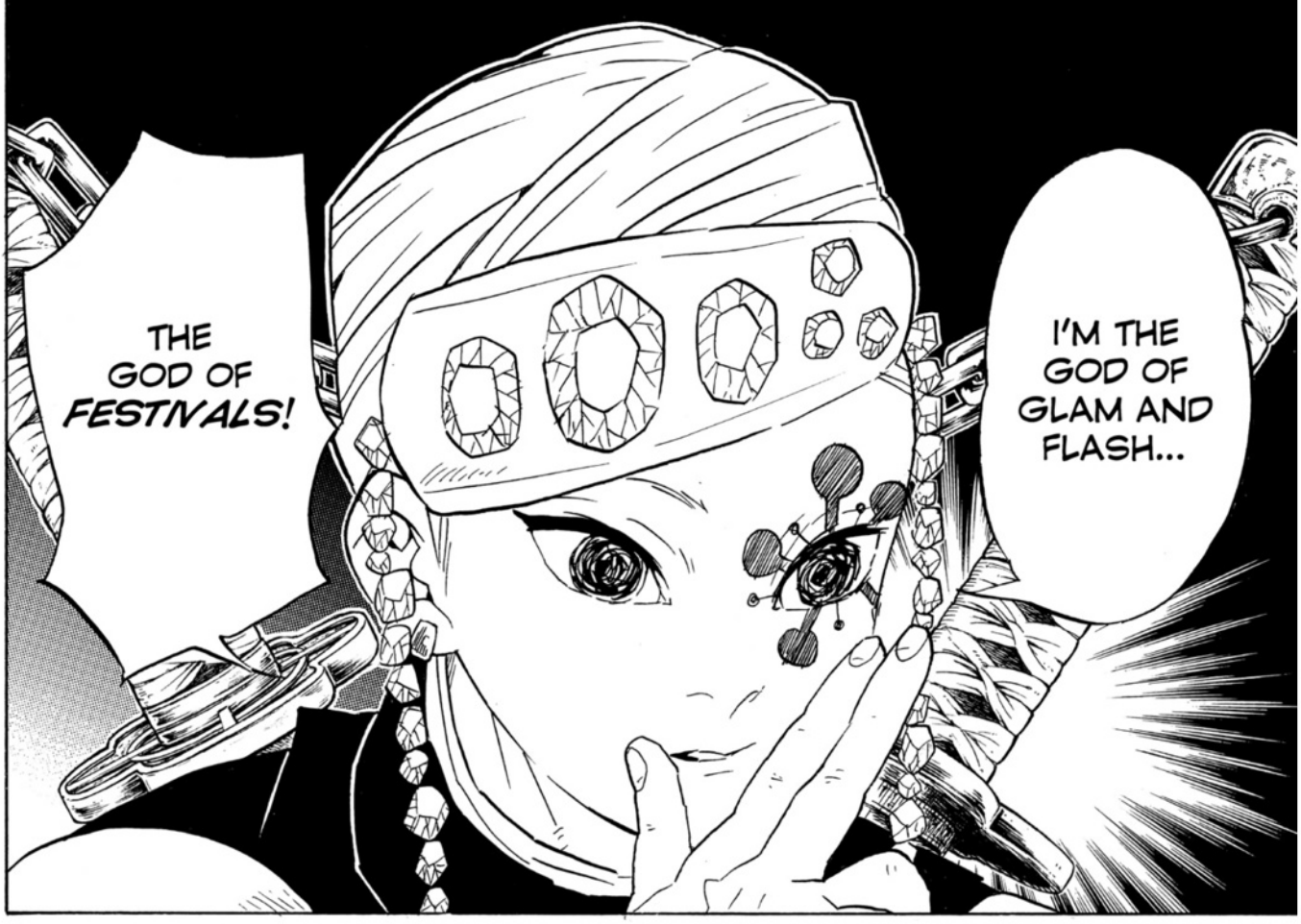
SLIP

THIS GUY IS MESSED UP!

AND HE'S A FOOL.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU THE GOD OF?

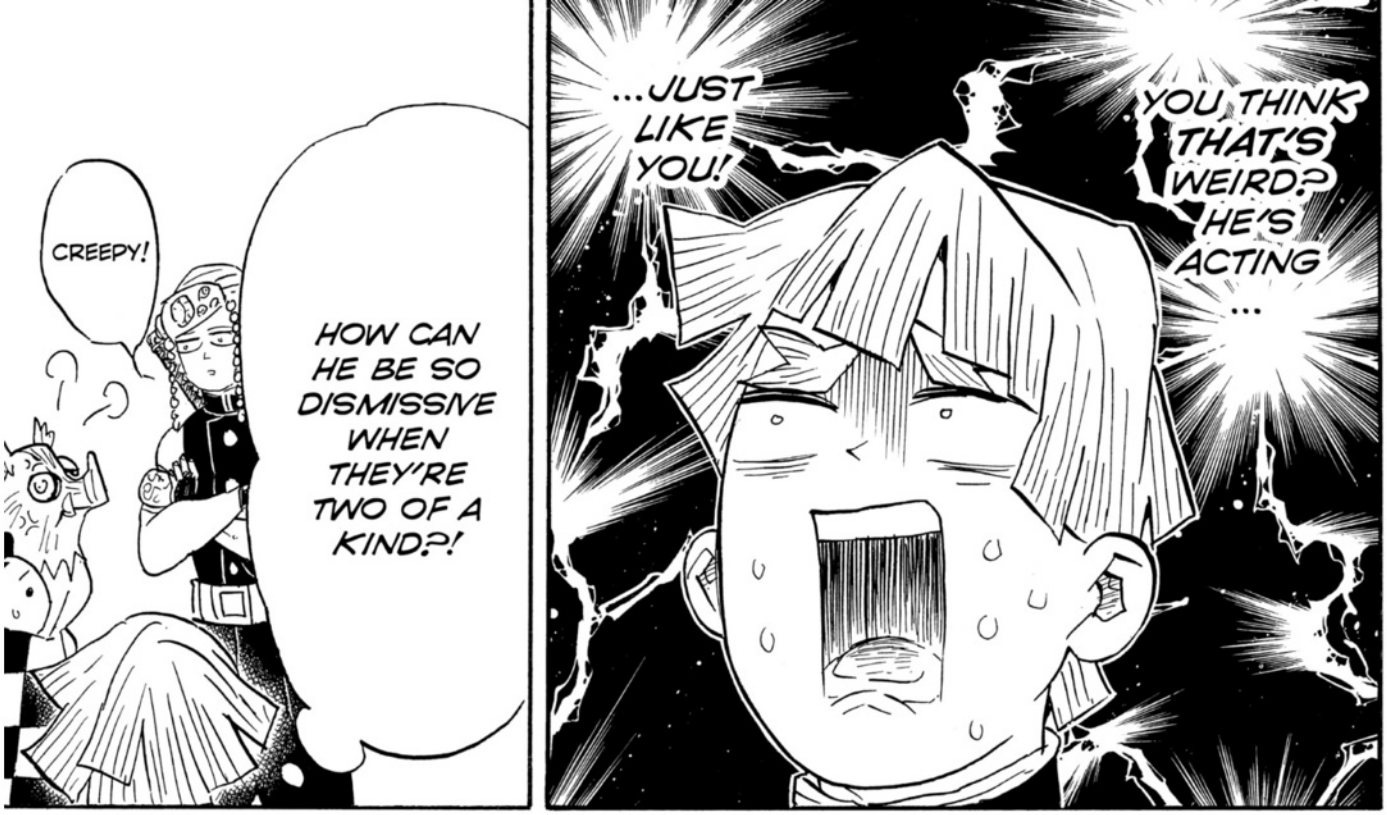
IT'S A DUMB QUES-TION. HE'S HOPE-LESS.
GOOD QUESTION. YOU'VE GOT PROMISE.

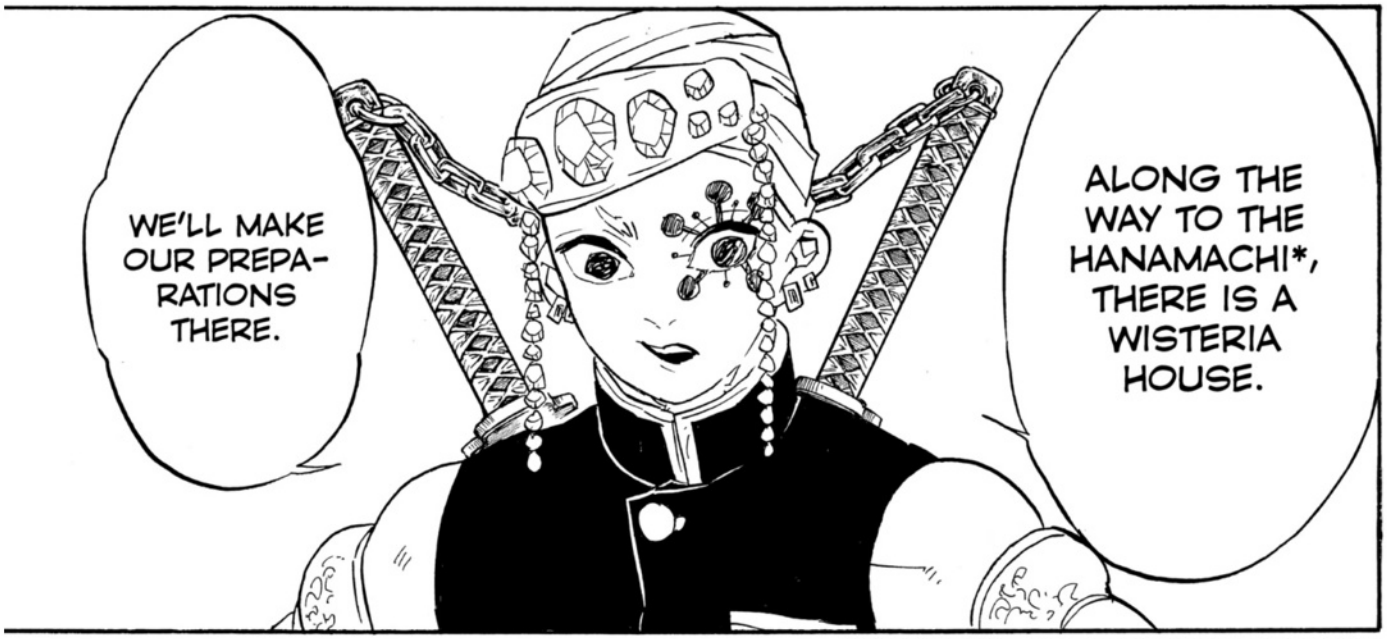

I'M THE GOD OF GLAM AND FLASH...
THE GOD OF FESTIVALS!

I'M THE GOD OF THE MOUN-TAIN.
GREET-INGS, GOD OF FESTIVALS.

WHAT AN IDIOT.
WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE'S THE GOD OF IDIOTS.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE WEIRD.





*HANAMACHI: AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT.

FWIFF

HEY!
HE'S GONE!

AAH!

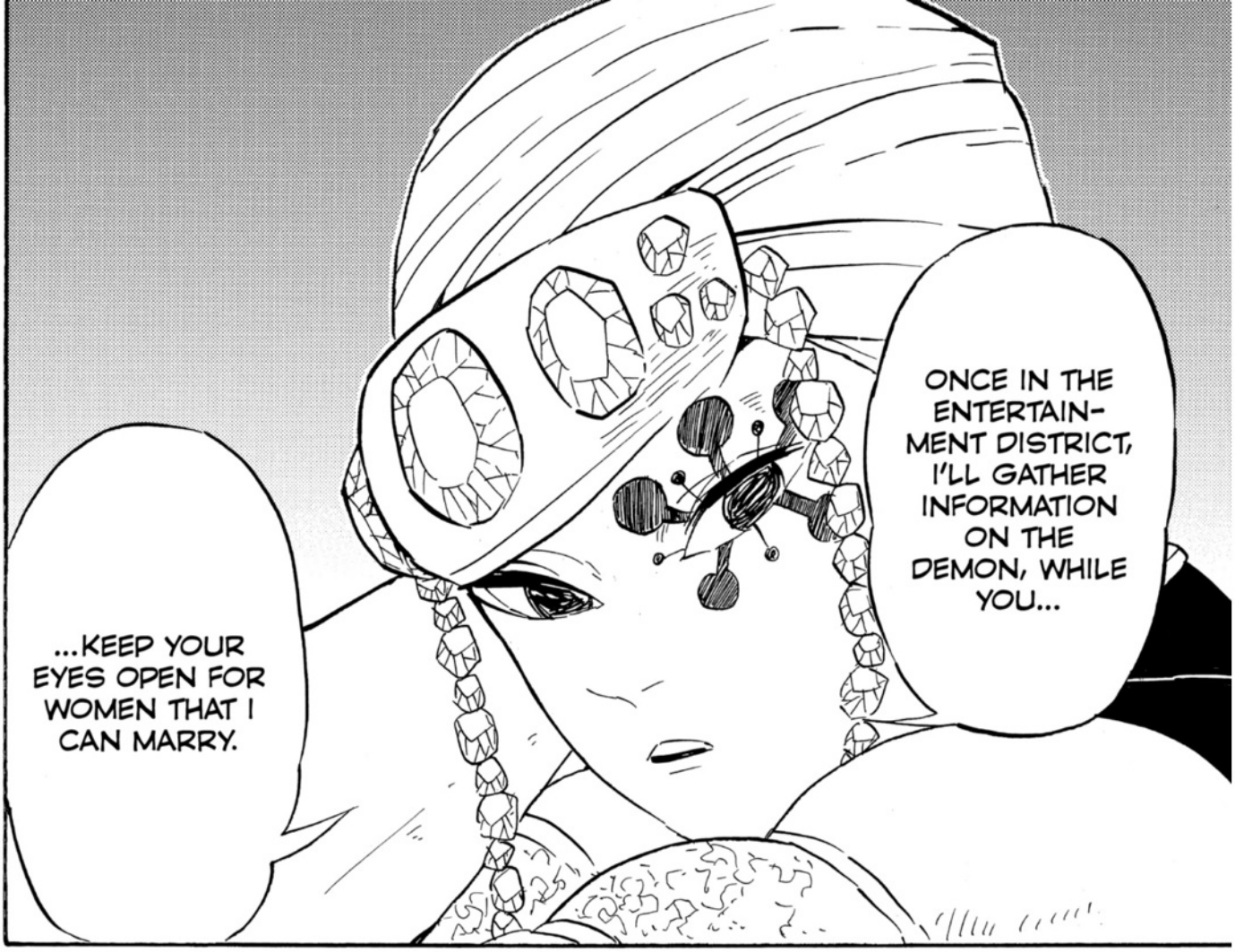
HE'S SO FAR AWAY HE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE SESAME SEED!
FWOOOSH
HE'S FAST!

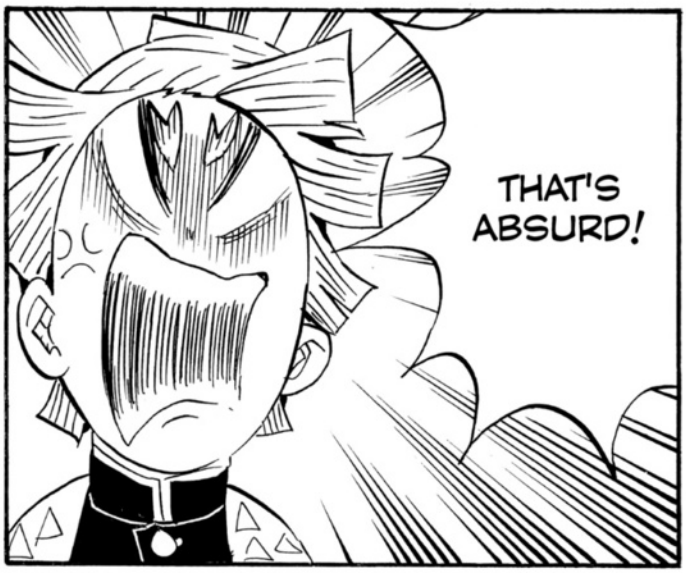
QUIT CHATTING! WE HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM!
NAW, HE'S JUST THE HASHIRA TENGEN UZUI.
WHOA
BEHOLD THE POWER OF THE FESTIVAL GOD!

UZUI BEING SUPER BOSSY
Do this, that and that!
NOD NOD

...MEMBERS OF THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE AT NO CHARGE.

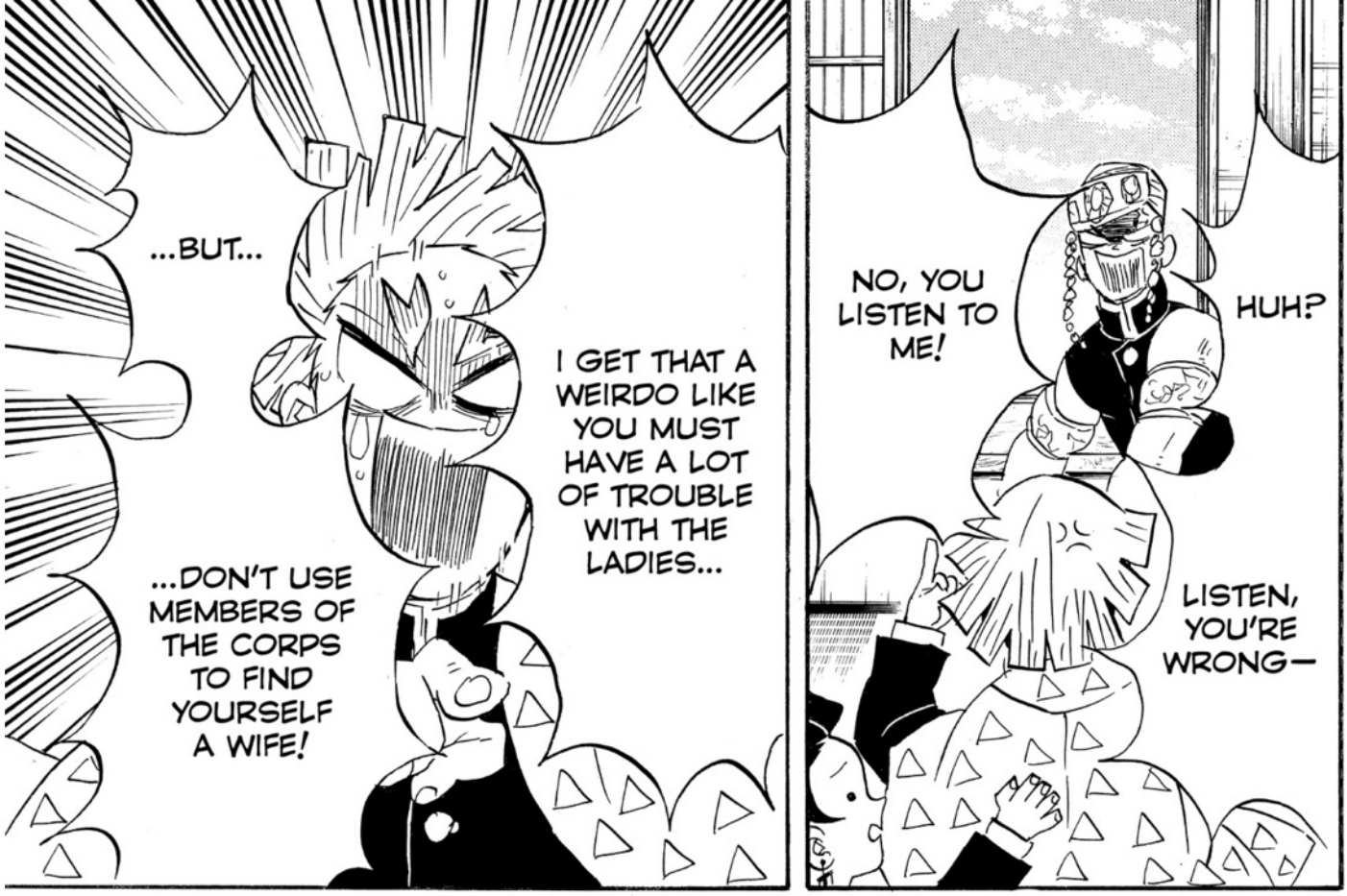
AT A HOUSE WITH A WISTERIA FLOWER IN ITS CREST...

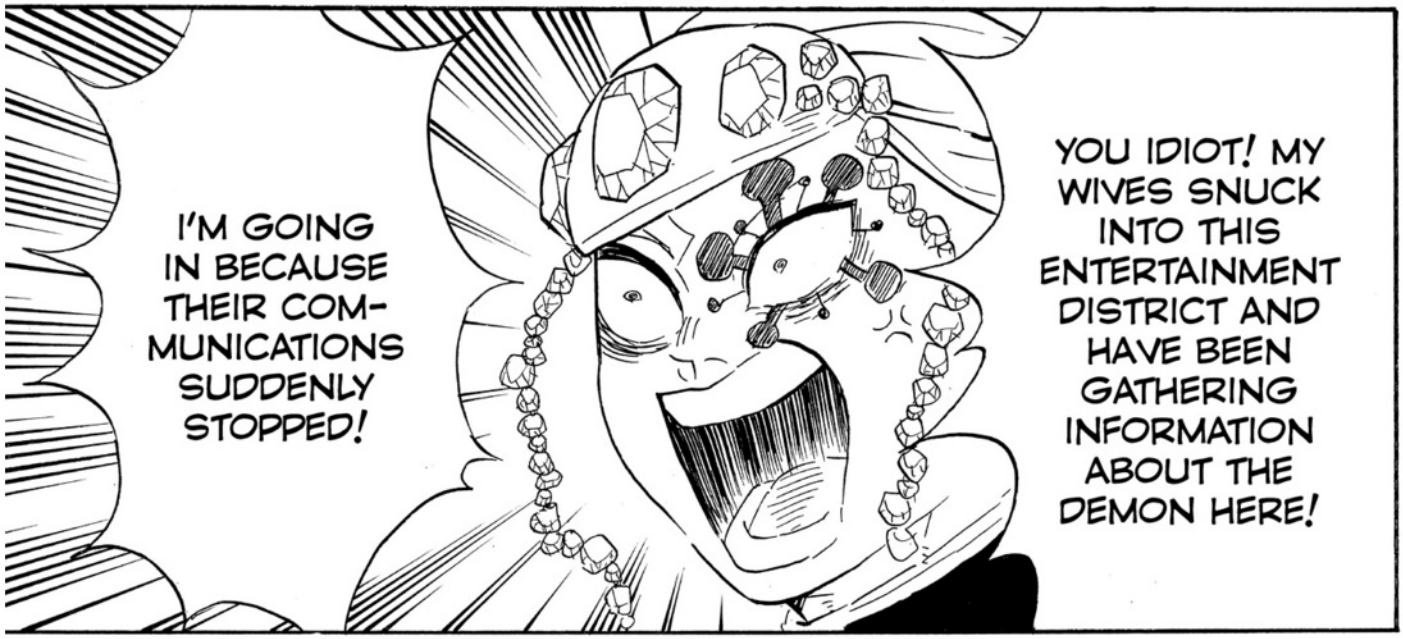

ONCE IN THE ENTERTAIN-MENT DISTRICT, I'LL GATHER INFORMATION ON THE DEMON, WHILE YOU...
...KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR WOMEN THAT I CAN MARRY.

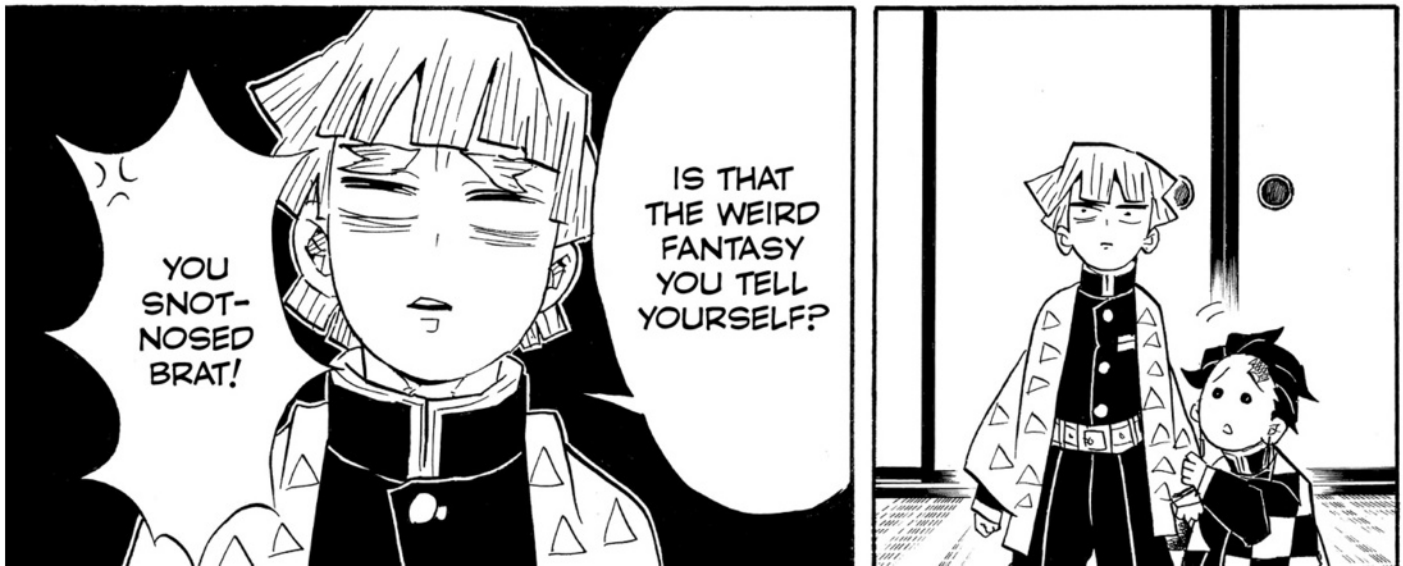

THAT'S ABSURD!

SNARF
SNARF

STOP MESSING AROUND! THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS ISN'T A MATCHMAKING SERVICE!
BAM
HUH?

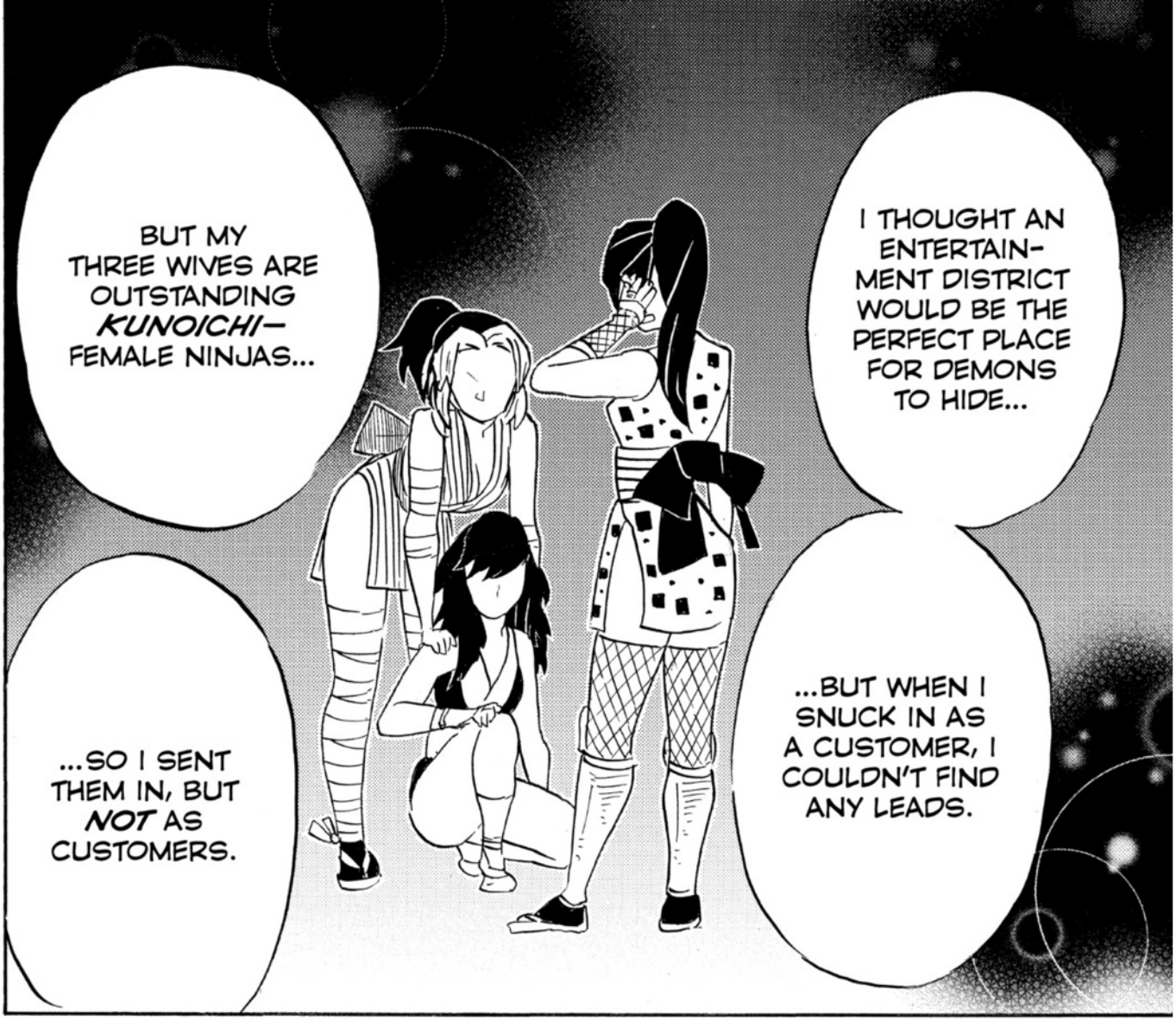

...BUT...
I GET THAT A WEIRDO LIKE YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH THE LADIES...
...DON'T USE MEMBERS OF THE CORPS TO FIND YOURSELF A WIFE!
NO, YOU LISTEN TO ME!
HUH?
LISTEN, YOU'RE WRONG—

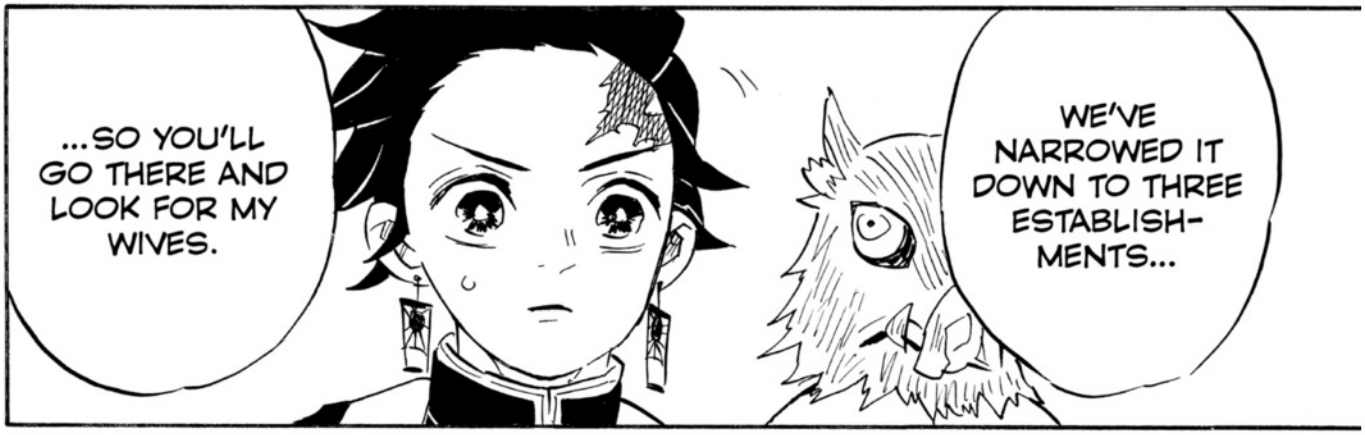

I'M GOING IN BECAUSE THEIR COM-MUNICATIONS SUDDENLY STOPPED!
YOU IDIOT! MY WIVES SNUCK INTO THIS ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT AND HAVE BEEN GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEMON HERE!


YOU SNOT-NOSED BRAT!
IS THAT THE WEIRD FANTASY YOU TELL YOURSELF?

FWAK
FWAP
GYAAH!
HERE! THESE ARE LETTERS THEY SENT BY CROW!
OH YEAH
DOLT! I HAVE THREE WIVES!
SHE MUST WRITE VERY QUICKLY.
SO MANY!
NOM
NOM
HOW CAN YOU HAVE THREE WIVES? GIMME A BREAK!
THREE... WIVES...? TH-THREE?! Y-YOU?!

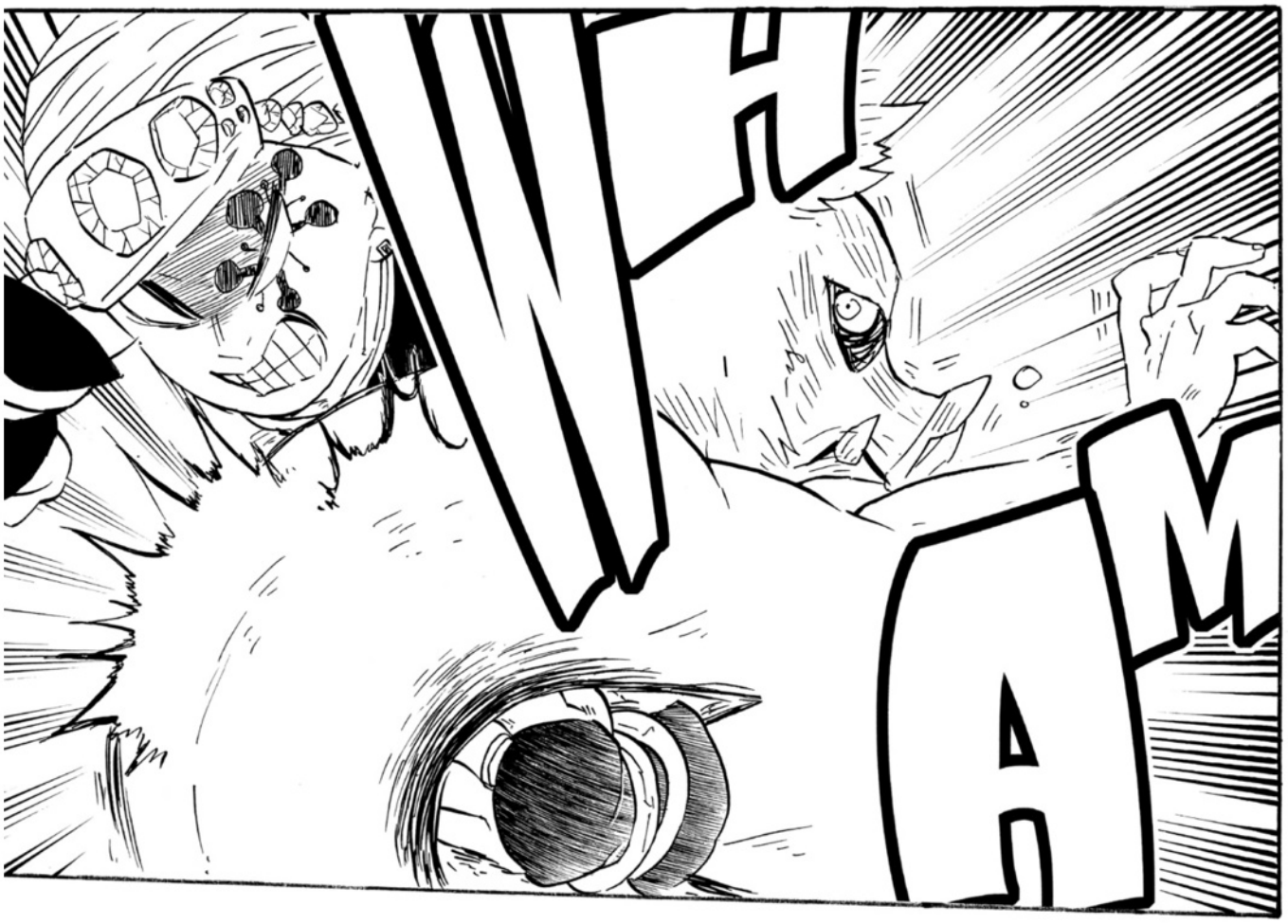
UNGH!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
UM... IN THESE LETTERS ...
...THEY KEEP REMINDING YOU NOT TO STAND OUT WHEN YOU ARRIVE.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
USE DISGUISES, OF COURSE.
IT'S BORING AND PLAIN, BUT...
...I HAVE TO GET YOU IN THERE FOR YOUR MISSION.


I THOUGHT AN ENTERTAIN-MENT DISTRICT WOULD BE THE PERFECT PLACE FOR DEMONS TO HIDE...
...BUT WHEN I SNUCK IN AS A CUSTOMER, I COULDN'T FIND ANY LEADS.
BUT MY THREE WIVES ARE OUTSTANDING *KUNOICHI*— FEMALE NINJAS...
...SO I SENT THEM IN, BUT *NOT* AS CUSTOMERS.

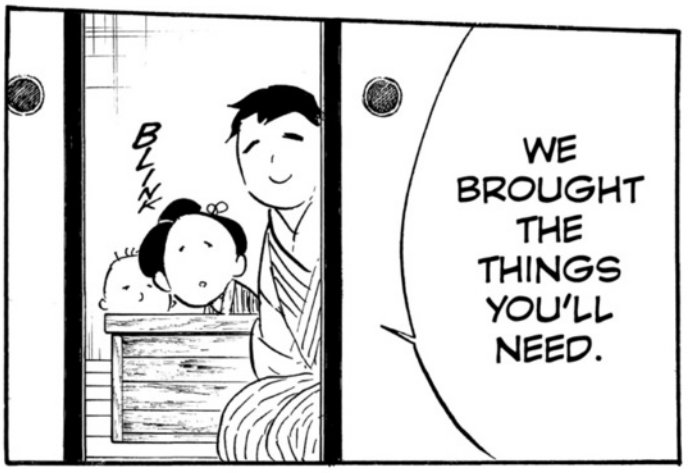

WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE ESTABLISH-MENTS...
...SO YOU'LL GO THERE AND LOOK FOR MY WIVES.

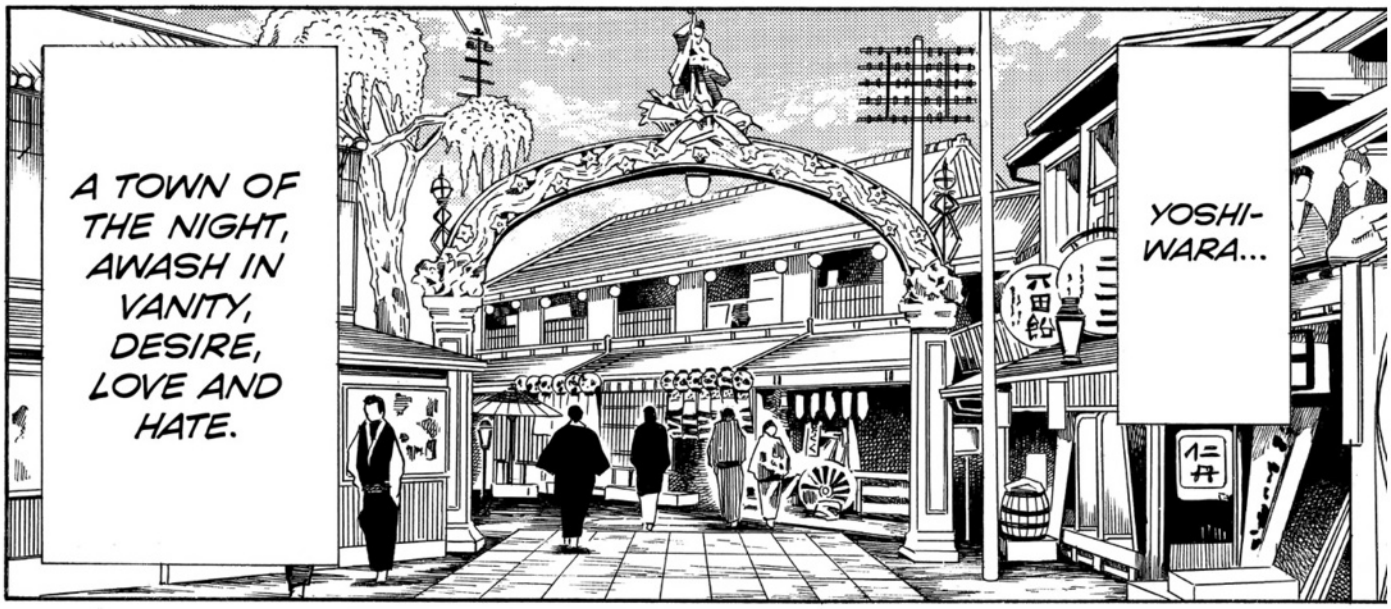
SUMA AT HOUSE TOKITO...
...MAKIO AT HOUSE OGIMOTO...
...AND HINATSURU AT HOUSE KYOGOKU.

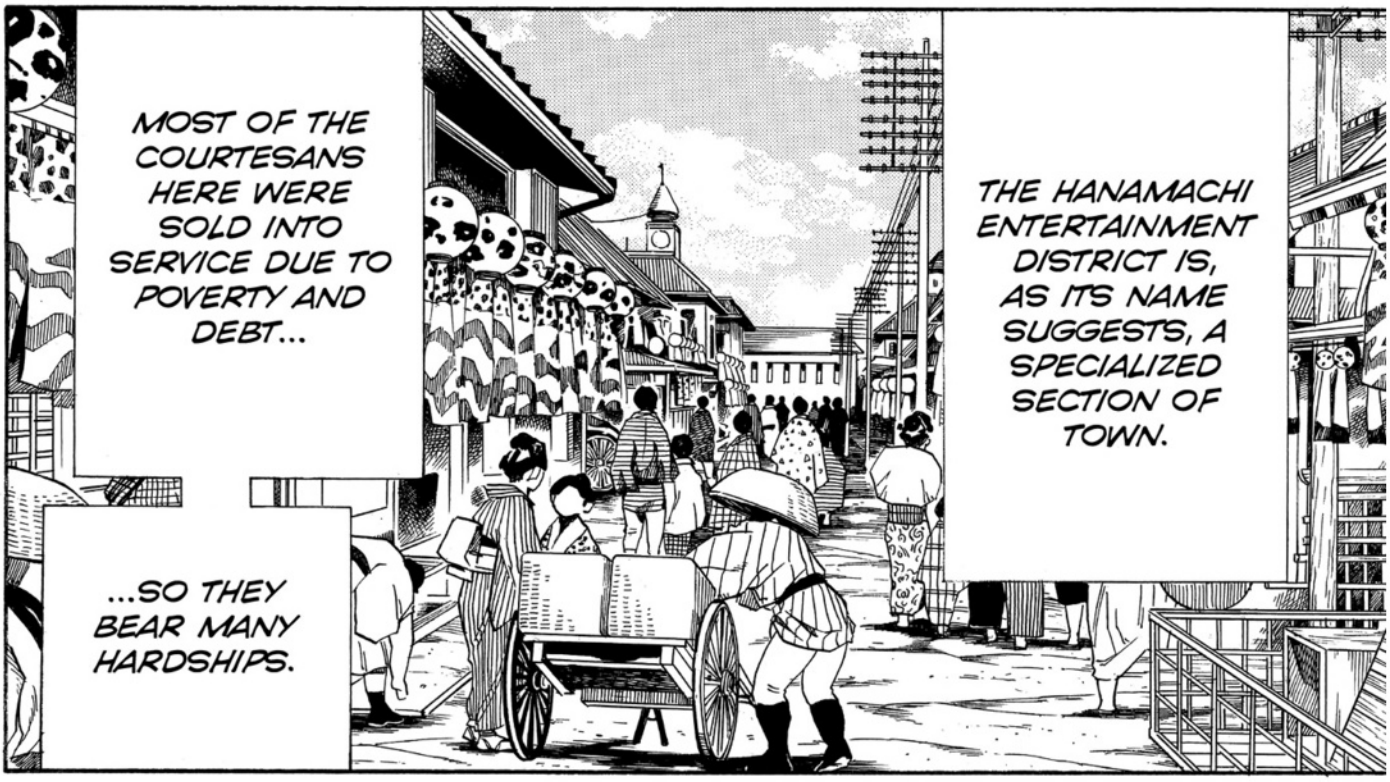
WHAT IF YOUR WIVES ARE ALREADY DEAD?
PICK
PICK


WHAM

THANKS.
...

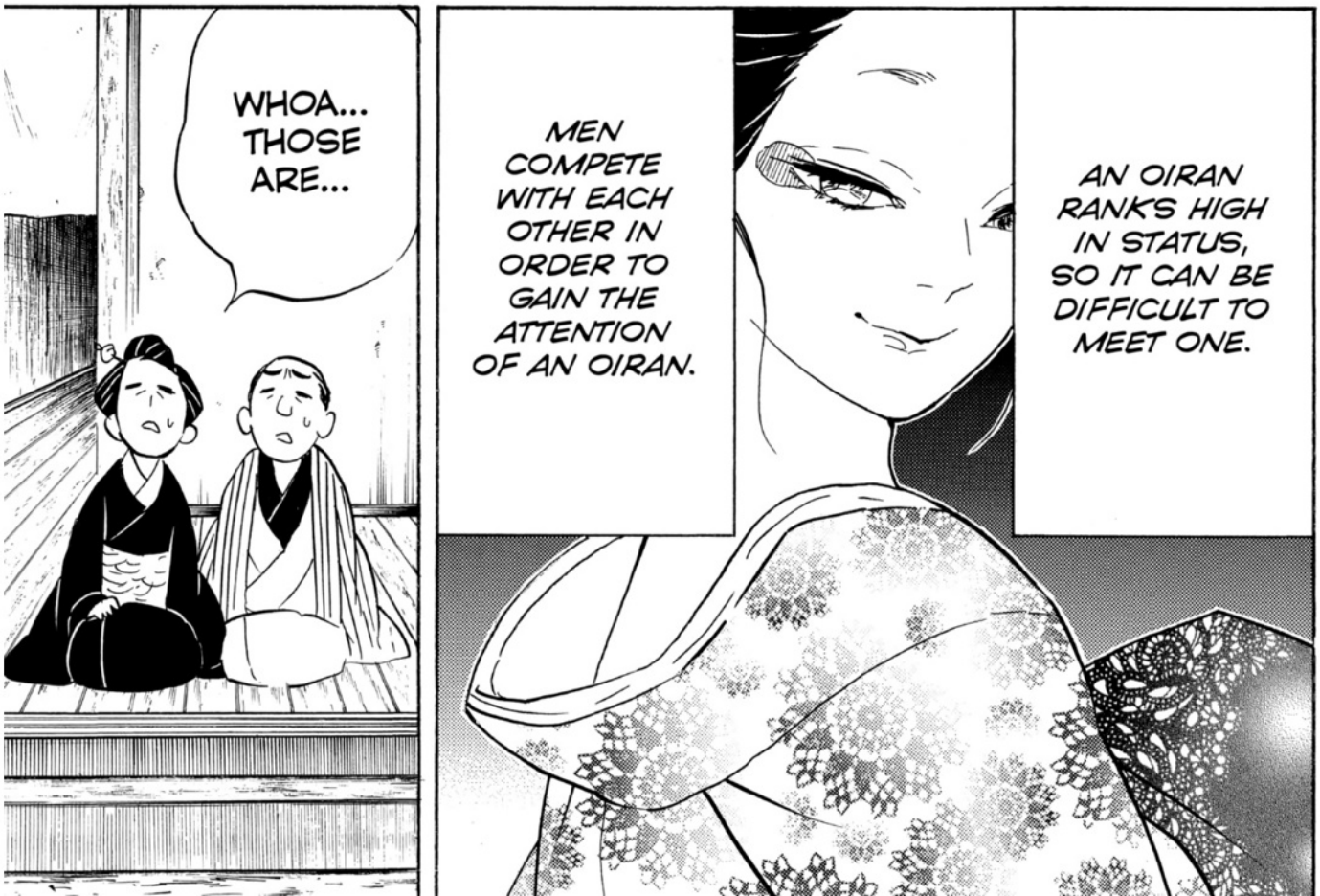

BLINK
WE BROUGHT THE THINGS YOU'LL NEED.


YOSHI-
WARA...
A TOWN OF THE NIGHT, AWASH IN VANITY, DESIRE, LOVE AND HATE.

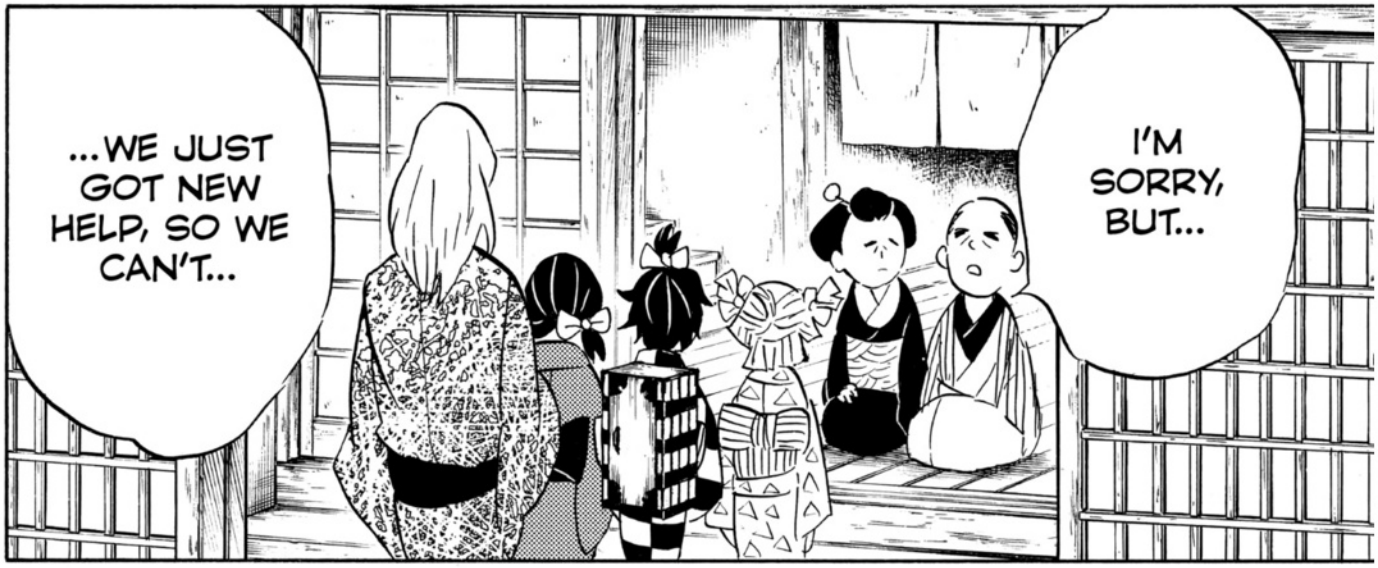

THE HANAMACHI ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT IS, AS ITS NAME SUGGESTS, A SPECIALIZED SECTION OF TOWN.
MOST OF THE COURTESANS HERE WERE SOLD INTO SERVICE DUE TO POVERTY AND DEBT...
...SO THEY BEAR MANY HARDSHIPS.

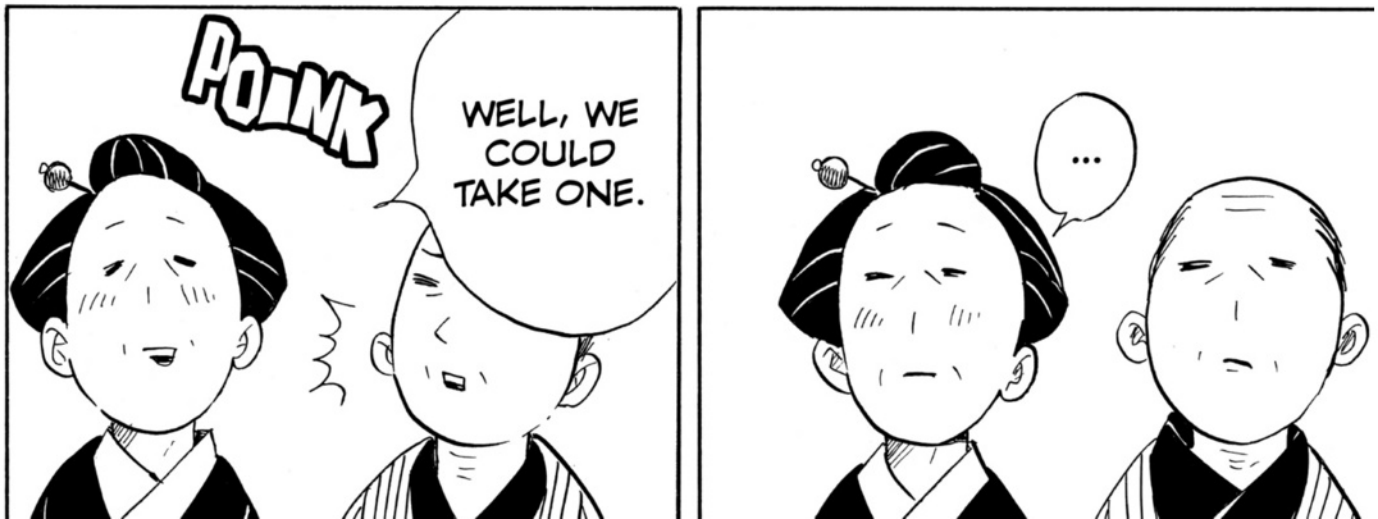
THEY NOW HAVE CLOTHING, FOOD AND SHELTER...
...AND IF THEY SUCCEED AS COURTESANS, A WEALTHY MAN MAY YET BUY THEIR FREEDOM.

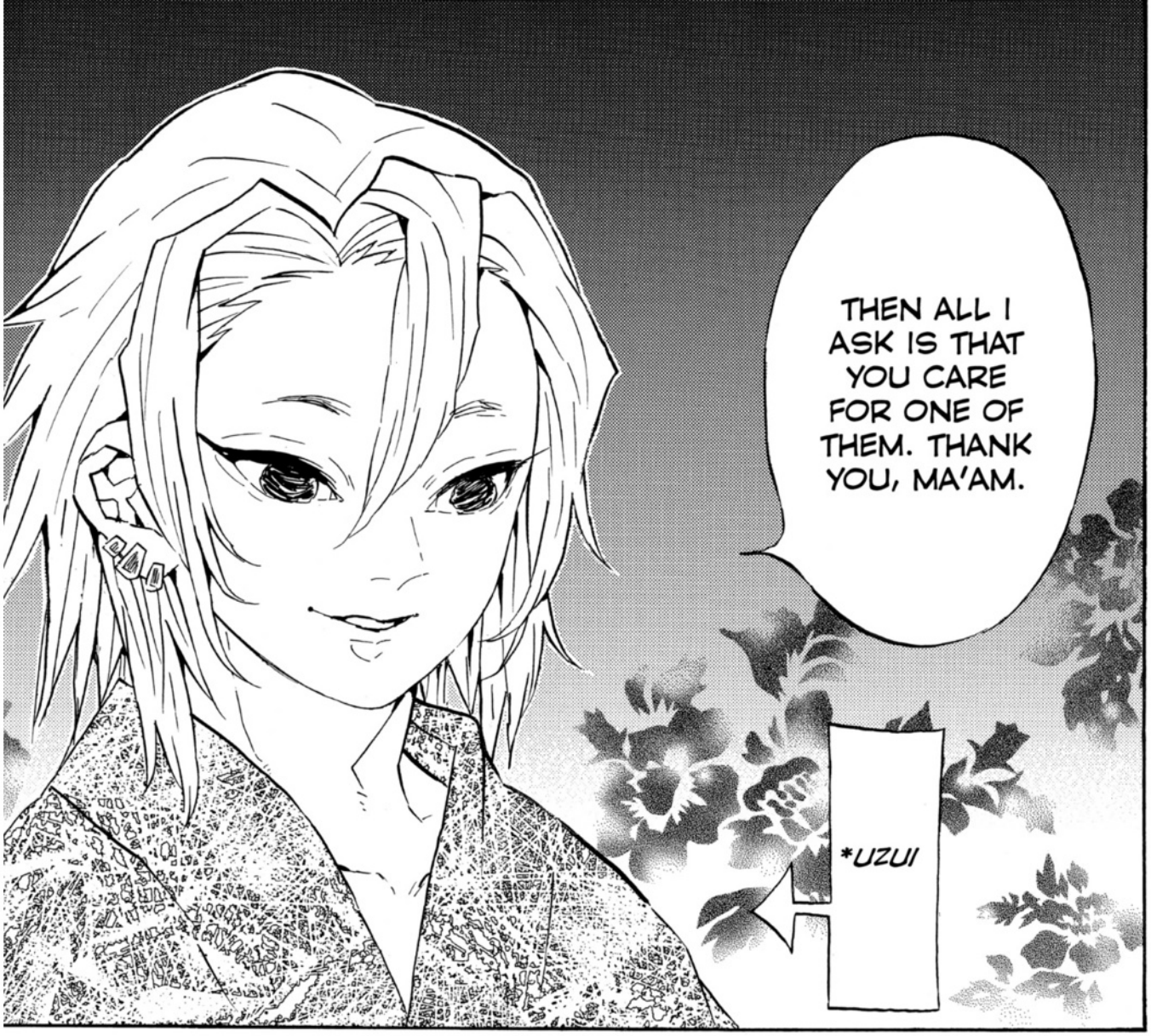
AN OIRAN, THE HIGHEST RANK AMONG COURTESANS, IS A SPECIAL WOMAN...
...ONE WHO HAS EVERYTHING: BEAUTY, EDUCATION AND ARTISTRY.


AN OIRAN RANKS HIGH IN STATUS, SO IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO MEET ONE.
MEN COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER IN ORDER TO GAIN THE ATTENTION OF AN OIRAN.
WHOA... THOSE ARE...

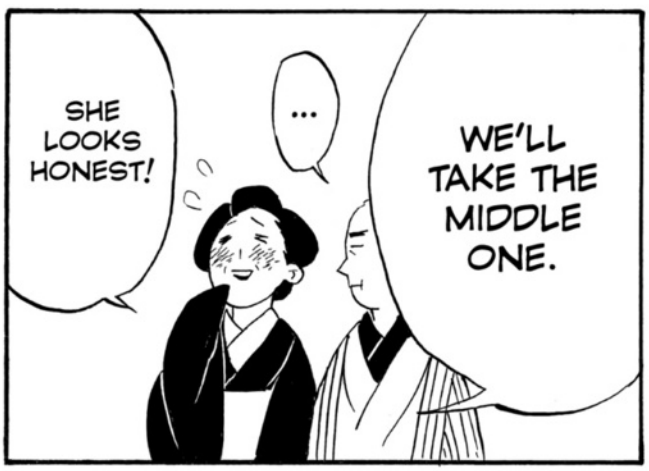
TA-DAH
Zenko
Inoko
Sumiko
...SOME REALLY UGLY GIRLS!


I'M SORRY, BUT...
...WE JUST GOT NEW HELP, SO WE CAN'T...


POINK
WELL, WE COULD TAKE ONE.
...

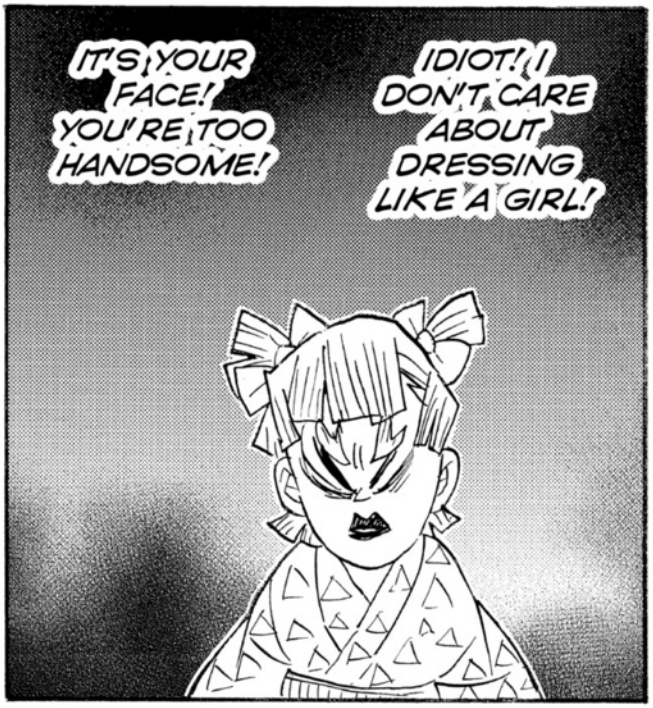

THEN ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU CARE FOR ONE OF THEM. THANK YOU, MA'AM.
*UZUI

I'LL WORK AS HARD AS I CAN!
SUMIKO GOT A JOB.


SHE LOOKS HONEST!
...
WE'LL TAKE THE MIDDLE ONE.

I'LL HAVE TO SELL YOU DIRT CHEAP!
TSK!
YOU TWO ARE TRULY HOPELESS!

I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU!
SIIGH


IDIOT! I DON'T CARE ABOUT DRESSING LIKE A GIRL!
IT'S YOUR FACE! YOU'RE TOO HANDSOME!

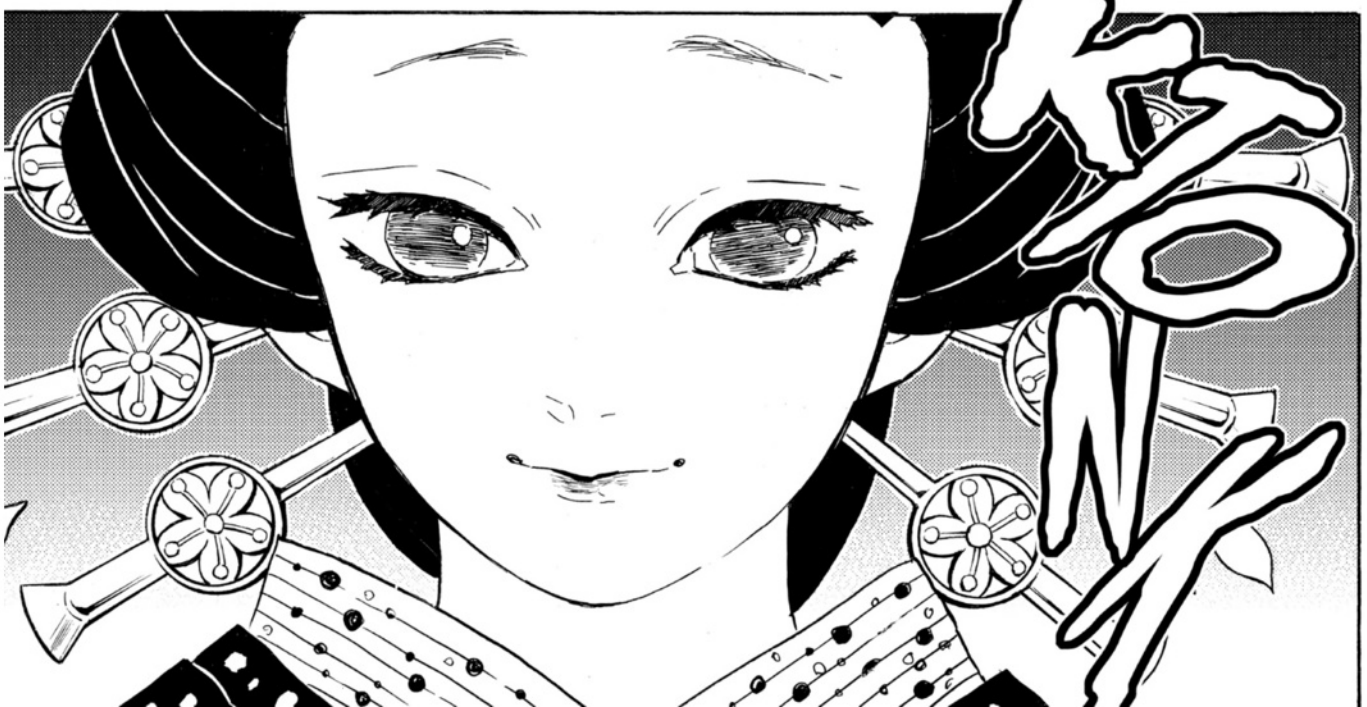
BECAUSE I DRESSED YOU LIKE A GIRL?
YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING I TOLD YOU.

OH...
IT'S AN *OIRAN DOCHU*. A COURTESAN PROCESSION.

CHATTER
CHATTER

HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE?

THAT'S KOINATSU—AN OIRAN FROM HOUSE TOKITO.



A HIGH-RANKING COURTESAN IS GOING TO GREET A SUITOR.
OOO! HOW MUCH DID THAT COST? VERY FLASHY.

WHAT ?!
BACK OFF!
THAT'S YOUR WIFE?!
THAT GODDESS IS YOUR WIFE? NO WAY! ARE ALL THREE OF THEM THAT BEAUTIFUL ?!

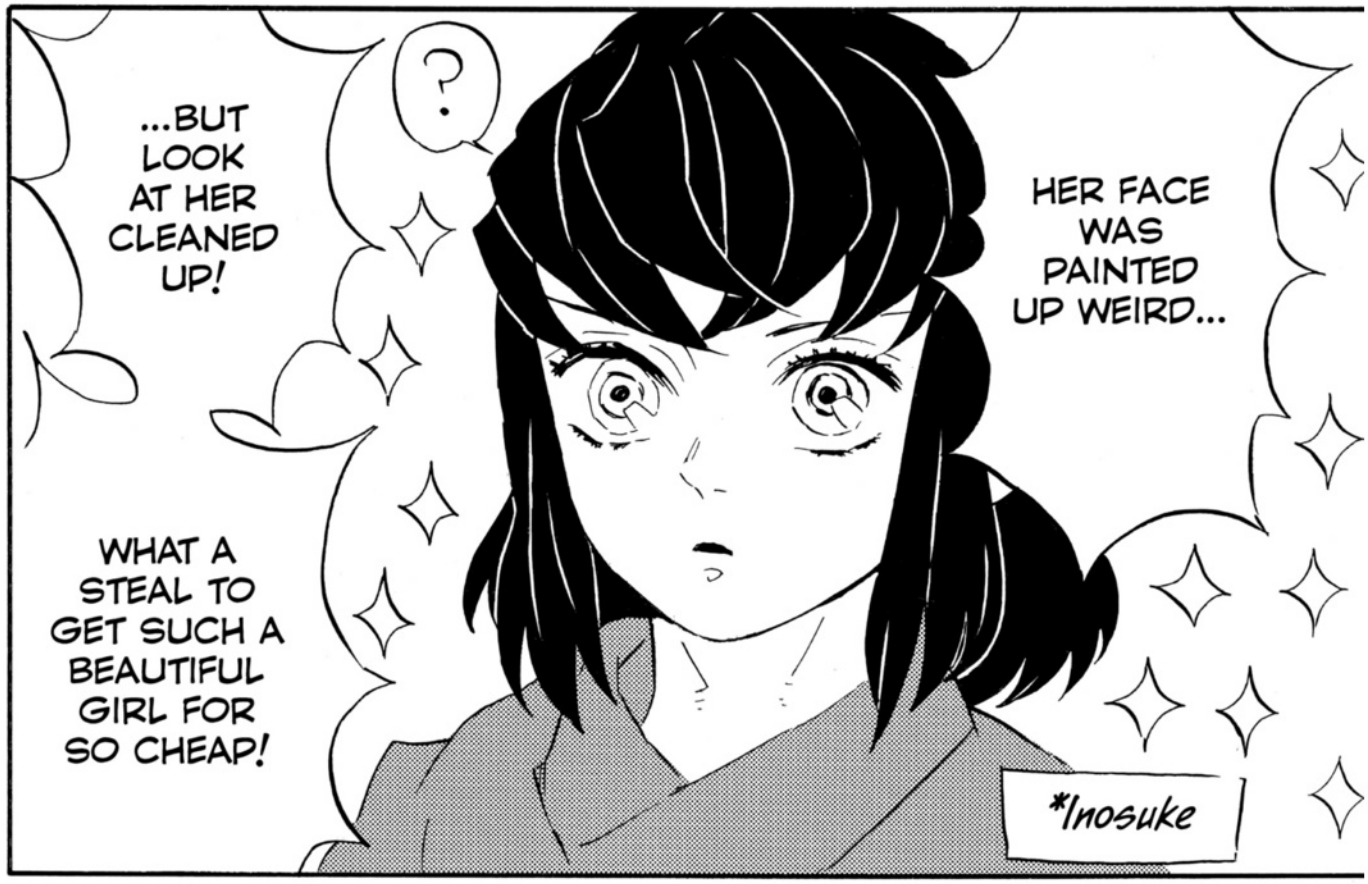
THAT'S *NOT* MY WIFE!
THWOK
SLAP
I WROTE DOWN THEIR NAMES FOR YOU!
YOU MOVE TOO SLOW.
PICK PICK
STAAARE
IN THE MOUN-TAINS, YOU'D GET KILLED RIGHT AWAY.

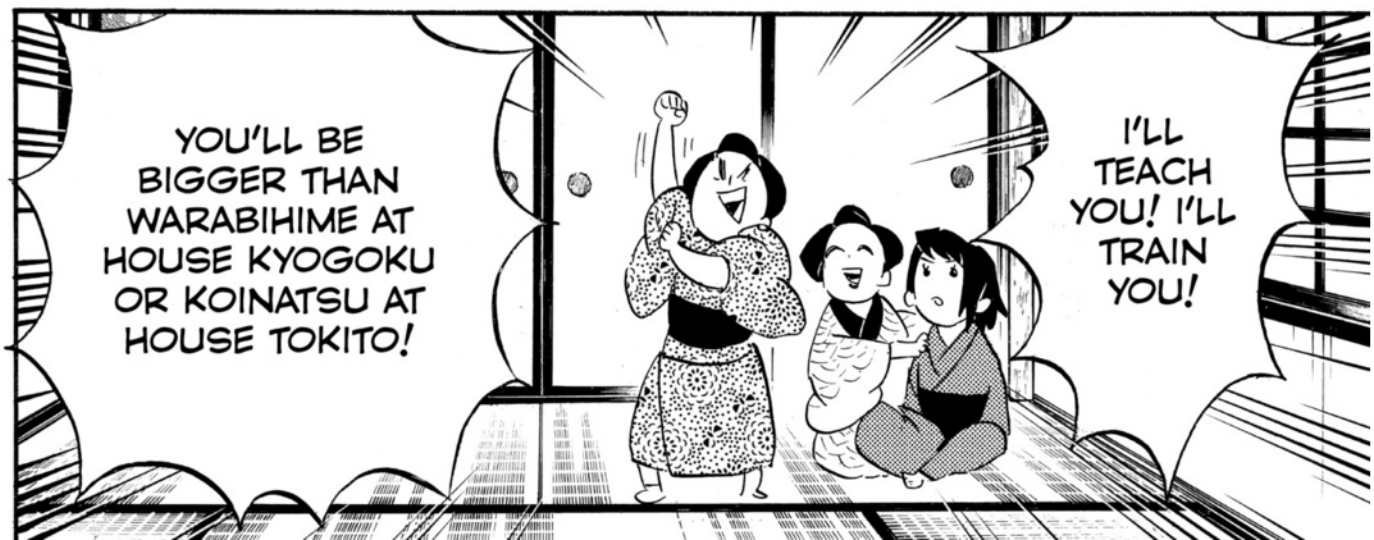
I'M THE MADAM AT HOUSE OGIMOTO, AND I HAVE AN EYE FOR TALENT.
TEE HEE
PARDON ME, KIND SIR, BUT...
...IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO PLACE THAT CHILD...
...I'LL TAKE HER IN.
?
HOUSE OGIMOTO! I'D BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT!
...
...
?
TAKE CARE, INOKO!
LITTLE OL' ME IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT!
OH DEAR!

Hey! What is the meaning of this?! With that scar no customers will want you! Give me a break! That man was so good-looking, how could he swindle me? I won't forgive this! Grrrrrr!
Stop that!
Taking it out on the girl won't help!
Aagh!

CHAPTER 72:
SEARCH FOR
MY WIVES

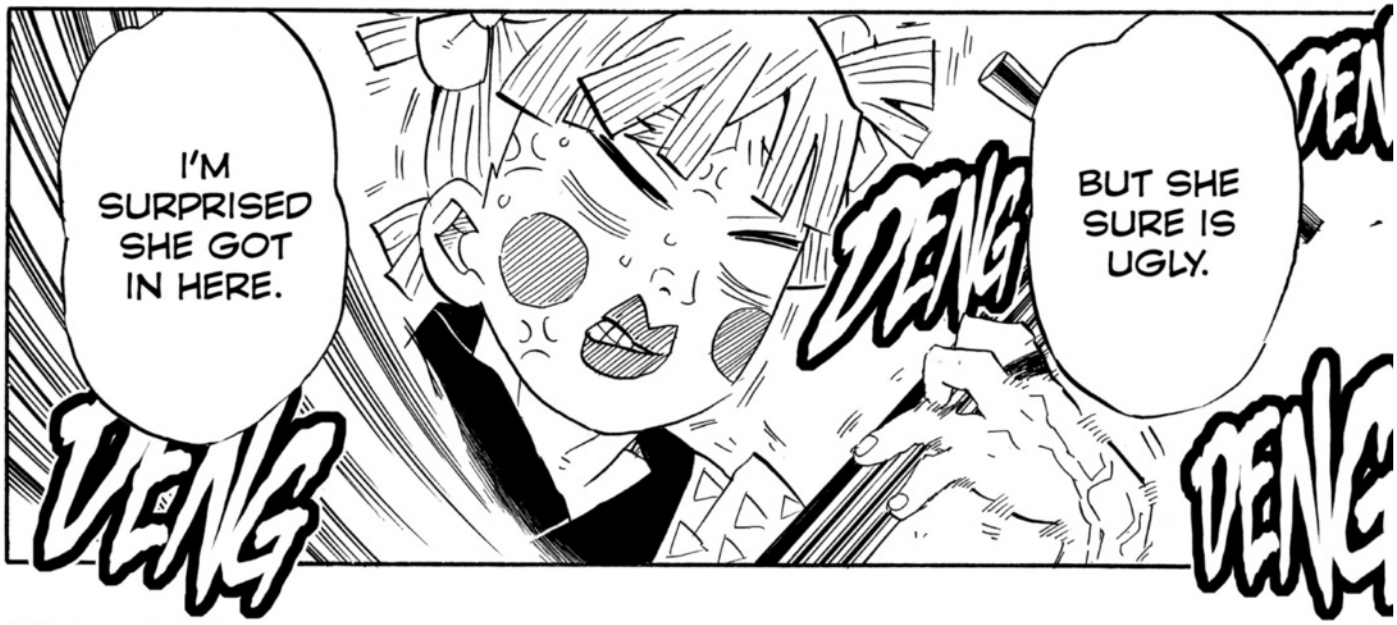
HOUSE OGIMOTO
SQUEEEE! WOW!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?


?
...BUT LOOK AT HER CLEANED UP!
HER FACE WAS PAINTED UP WEIRD...
WHAT A STEAL TO GET SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL FOR SO CHEAP!
*Inosuke


YOU'LL BE BIGGER THAN WARABIHIME AT HOUSE KYOGOKU OR KOINATSU AT HOUSE TOKITO!
I'LL TEACH YOU! I'LL TRAIN YOU!

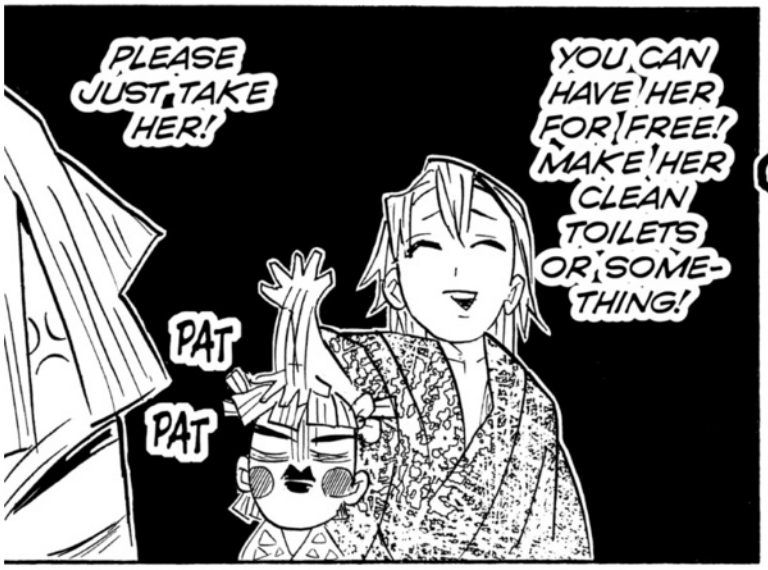
BUT ISN'T SHE BUILT A LITTLE BROAD?
PLUMP AND MEATY IS GOOD. ISN'T THIS GIRL GREAT?!
SHE'S MORE BEEFY THAN PLUMP...
TMP TMP
PLOT
HUGGIMM

HOUSE KYOGOKU
DENG DENG DENG
DENG
DIDN'T SHE JUST START HERE?
SHE'S GOT A GOOD EAR. IF SHE HEARS IT ONCE, SHE CAN PLAY THE SHAMISEN OR KOTO.
YEAH... SHE'S GOT STYLE.
THIS GIRL SURE CAN PLAY THE SHAMISEN!


I'M SURPRISED SHE GOT IN HERE.
DENG
BUT SHE SURE IS UGLY.
DENG
DEN
DENG

TEE HEE!
THAT GIRL WILL GO FAR.
I CAN IMAGINE.
HUH?
BLUSH
REALLY? I WISH I HAD SEEN HIM!
I HEARD THE MAN WHO BROUGHT HER IN WAS GORGEOUS.
EVEN THE HOUSE MOTHER WAS BLUSH-ING!

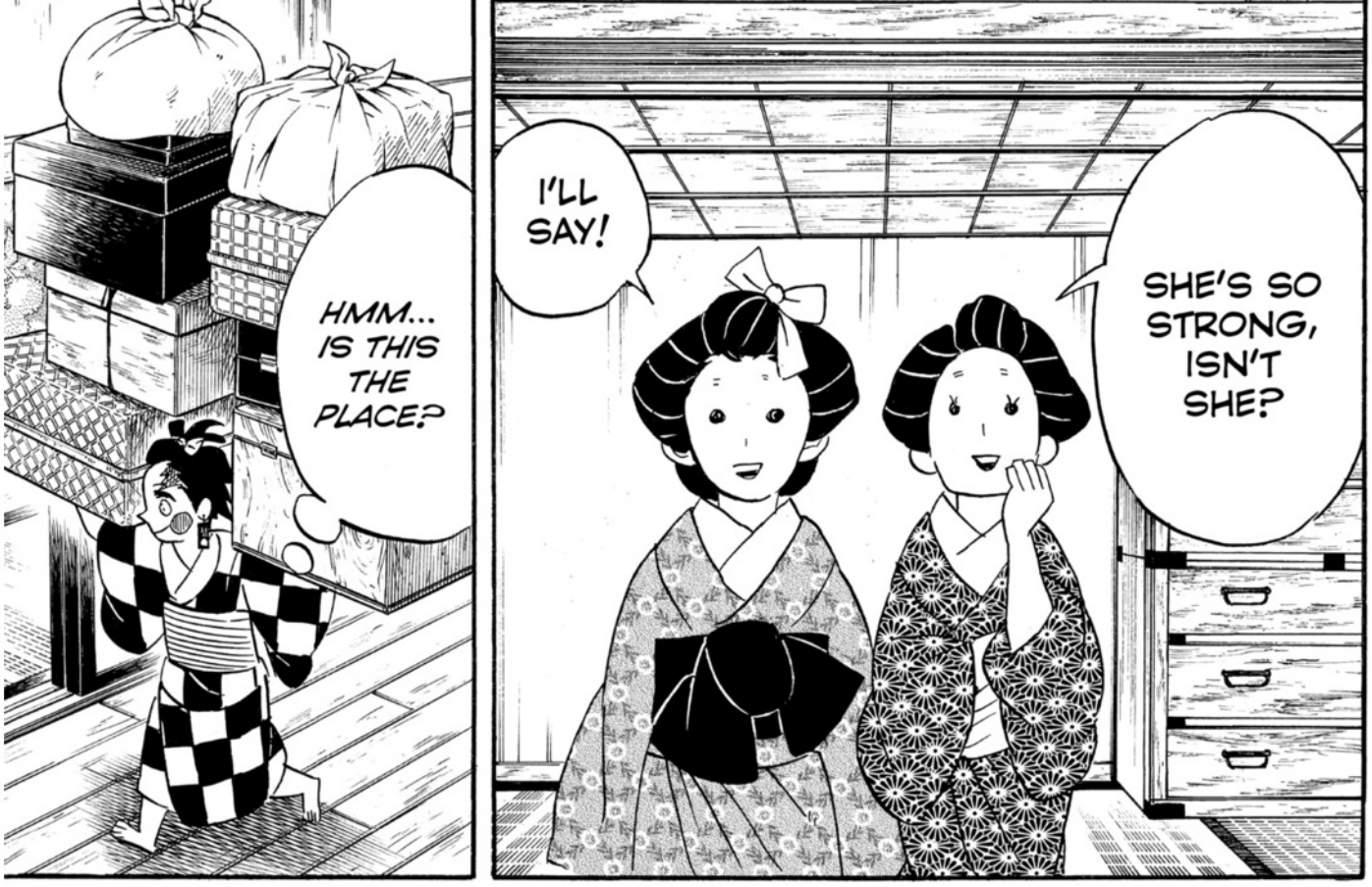
THAT KIND OF GIRL IS STRONG.
SOMETHING IS DRIVING HER TO GET BACK AT THE MAN WHO ABANDONED HER.


PLEASE JUST TAKE HER!
YOU CAN HAVE HER FOR FREE! MAKE HER CLEAN TOILETS OR SOMETHING!
PAT
PAT

STRONK
OH...

I'M GONNA BE THE TOP OIRAN IN YOSHI-WARA!
I'LL SHOW HIM!
*NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

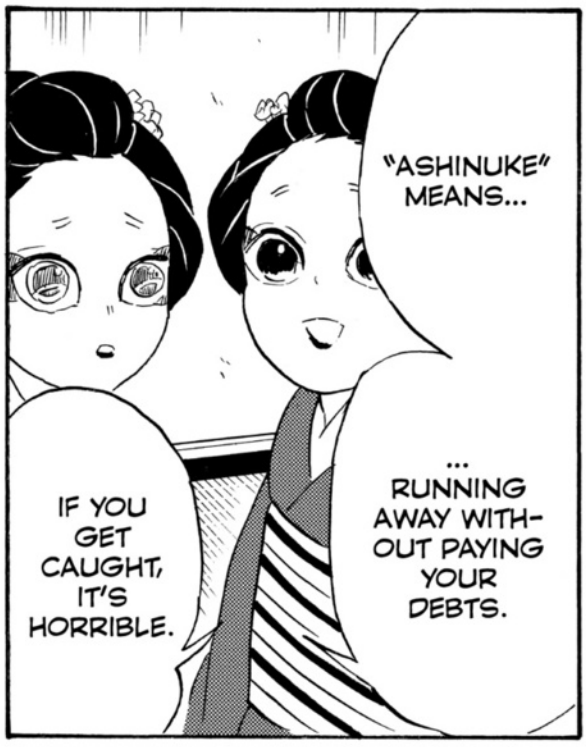
TANJIRO'S INFILTRATION: HOUSE TOKITO
SUMIKO, WE'RE SHORT-HANDED...
...SO WILL YOU PLEASE CARRY THIS?
SURE THING! TO KOINATSU OIRAN'S ROOM, RIGHT?
I'LL TAKE IT RIGHT AWAY!
TP
TP
TP
SUMIKO WORKS HARD.
UNDER THE FACE POWDER THERE WAS A SCAR ON HER FOREHEAD, SO THE OWNER WAS FURIOUS YESTERDAY, BUT...
YEP!
I'M SO GLAD TO WORK HERE!

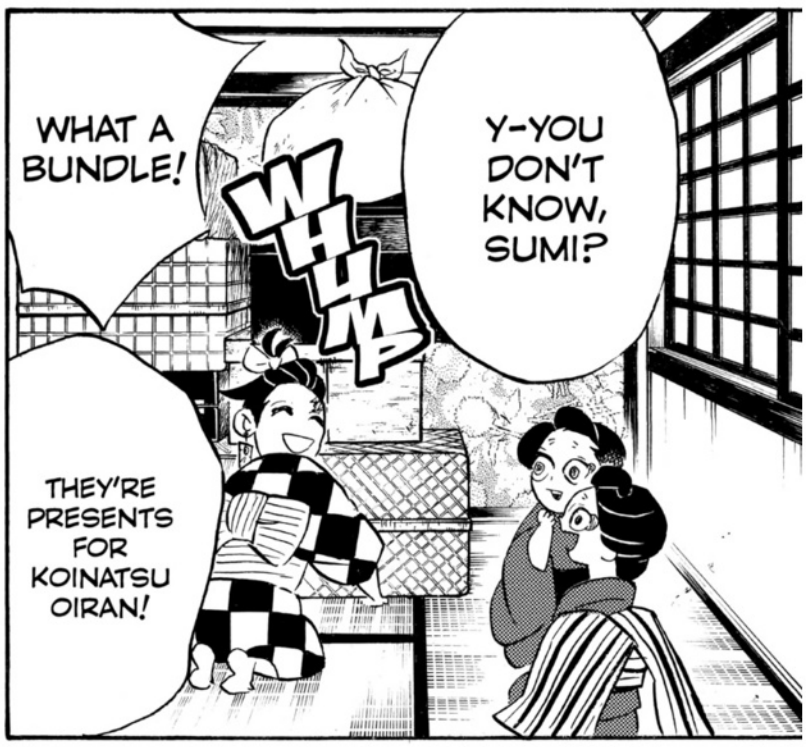

HMM... IS THIS THE PLACE?
I'LL SAY!
SHE'S SO STRONG, ISN'T SHE?

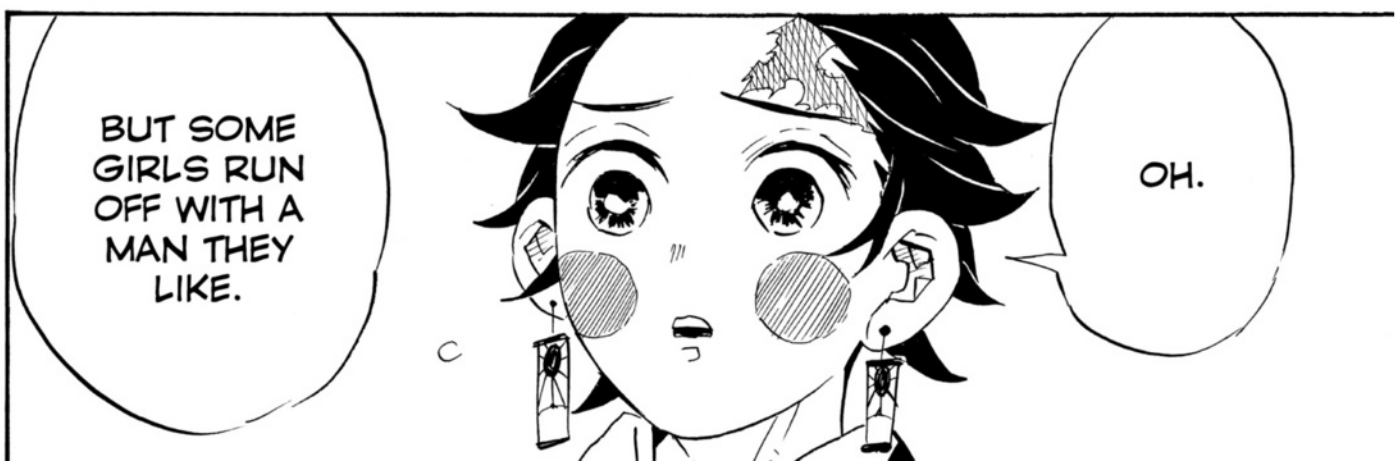
KOINATSU OIRAN'S ROOM
PSST
PSST
PSST
PSST

PSST
AND RECENTLY MANY GIRLS HAVE GONE *ASHINUKE* AND DISAPPEARED. SCARY...
HSST
PSST
I HEARD THE OKAMI AT HOUSE KYOGOKU FELL FROM A WINDOW AND DIED. SO SCARY!
PSST
LET'S BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
WHSST

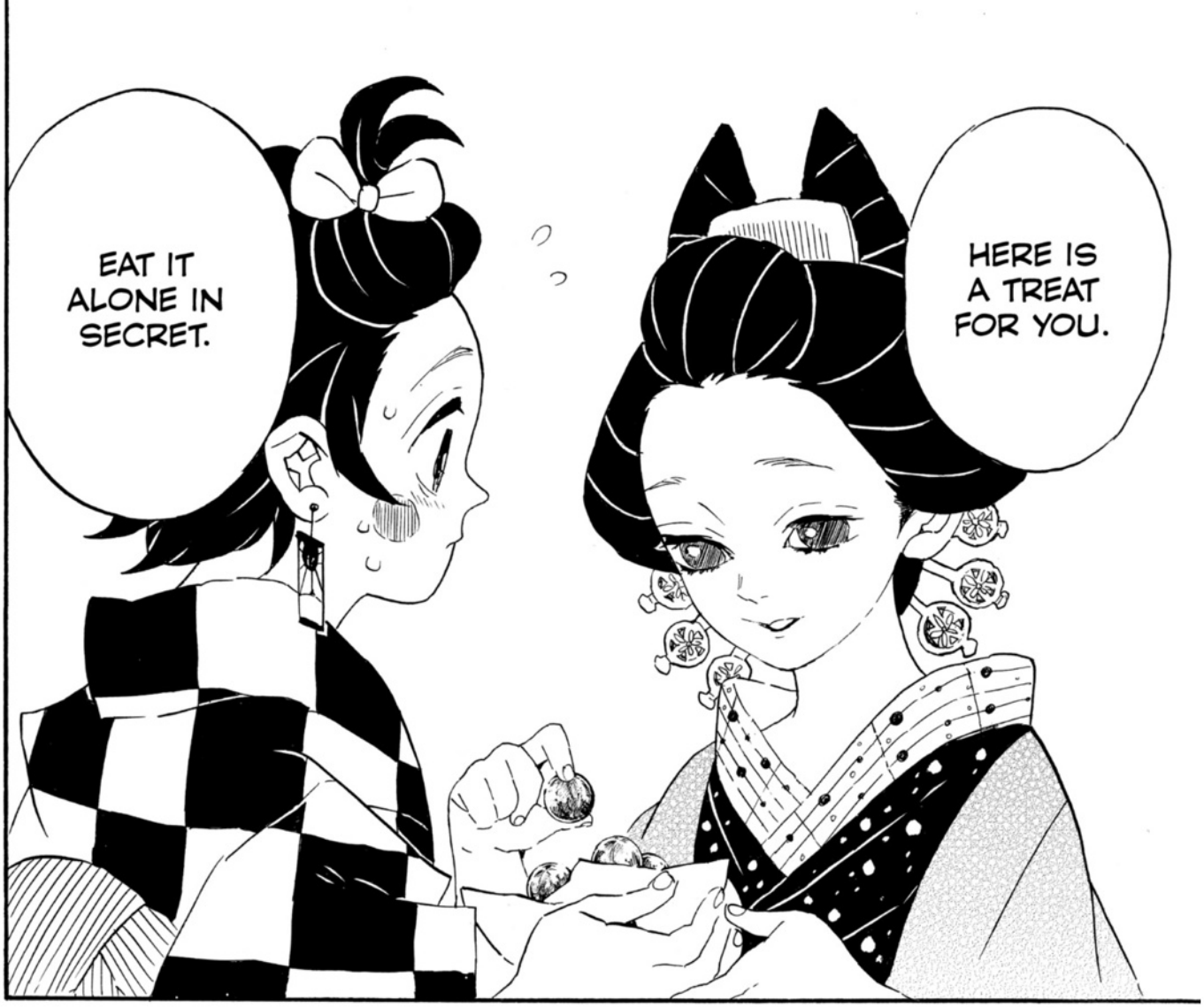
HWUP
WHAT'S "ASHINUKE"?

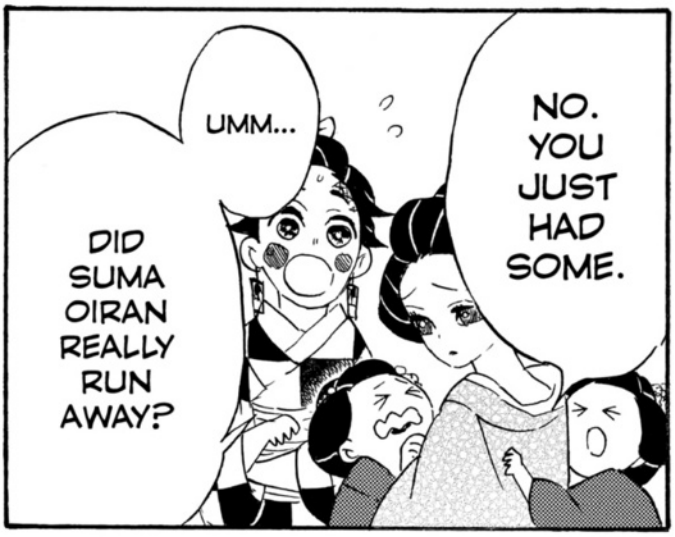

"ASHINUKE" MEANS...
... RUNNING AWAY WITHOUT PAYING YOUR DEBTS.
IF YOU GET CAUGHT, IT'S HORRIBLE.

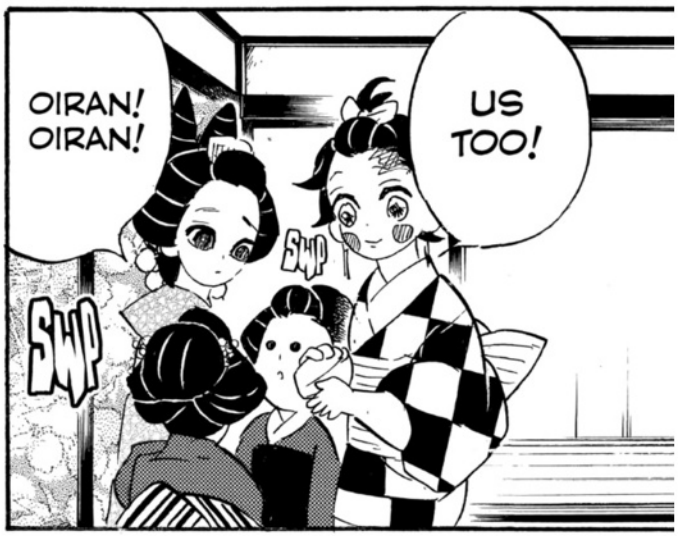

Y-YOU DON'T KNOW, SUMI?
WHUMP
WHAT A BUNDLE!
THEY'RE PRESENTS FOR KOINATSU OIRAN!

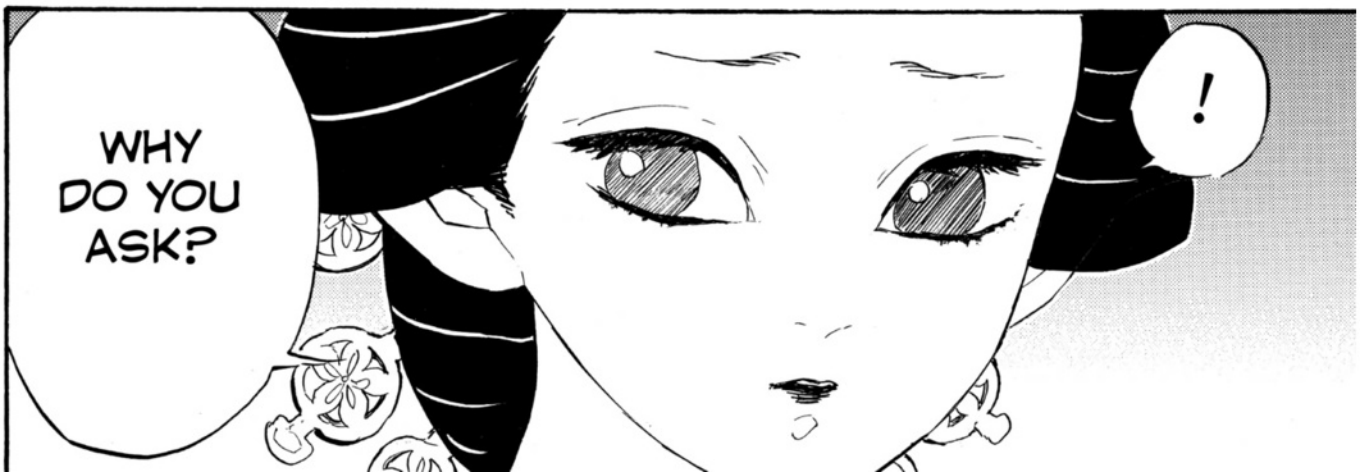

OH.
BUT SOME GIRLS RUN OFF WITH A MAN THEY LIKE.

SUMA!
THAT'S UZUI'S WIFE!
UHH...
!
LIKE SUMA OIRAN DID JUST RECENTLY.
YES, OIRAN.
STOP GOSSIP-ING.
COME.
THANK YOU FOR CARRYING THAT.
NO PROB-LEM!
NO ONE KNOWS IF SHE REALLY GOT AWAY.

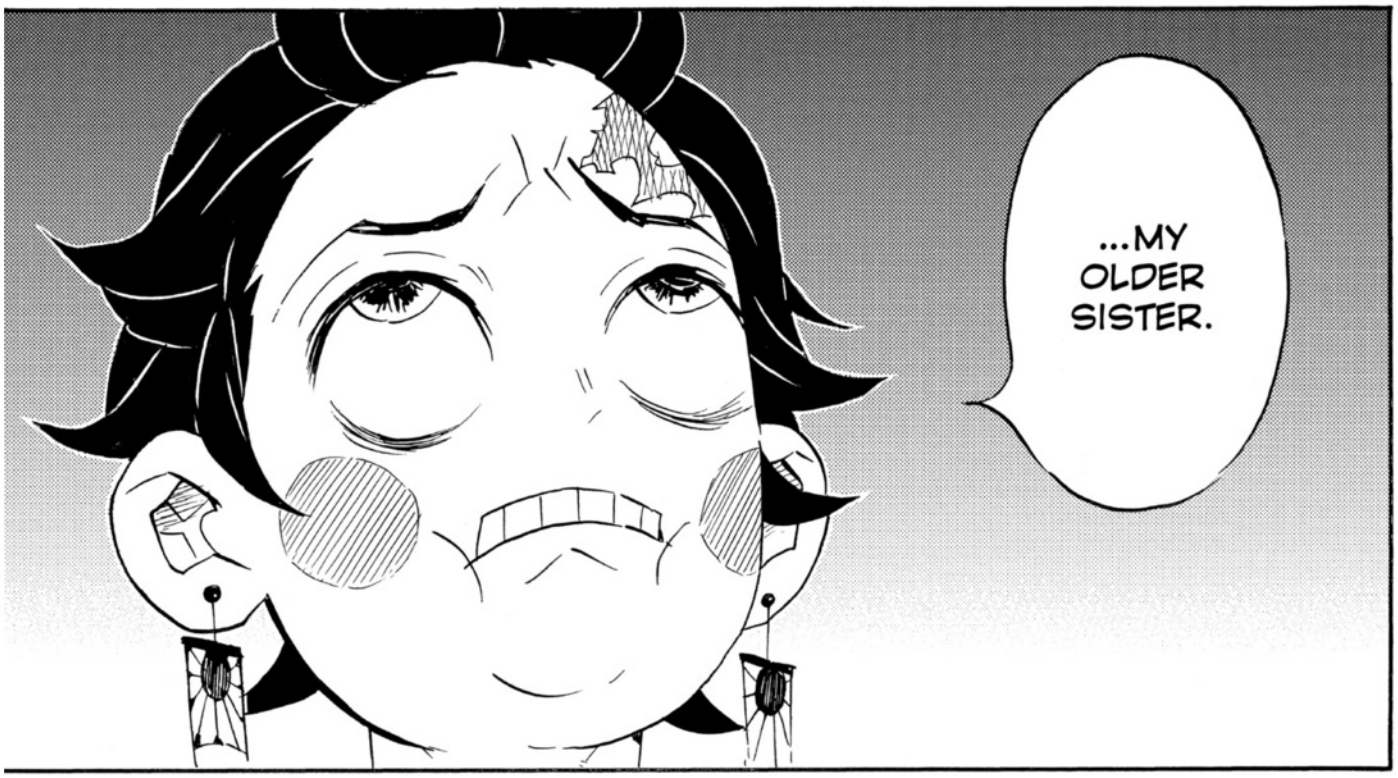

HERE IS A TREAT FOR YOU.
EAT IT ALONE IN SECRET.

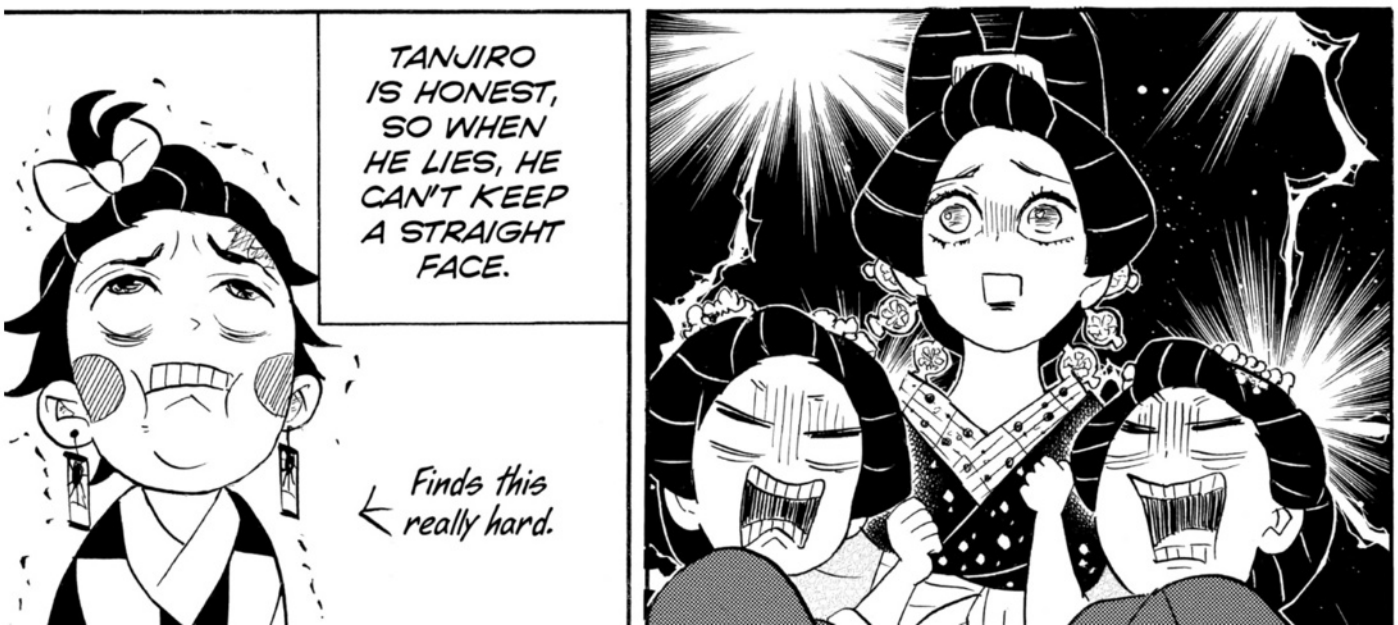

NO. YOU JUST HAD SOME.
UMM...
DID SUMA OIRAN REALLY RUN AWAY?


US TOO!
OIRAN! OIRAN!
SWP
SWP

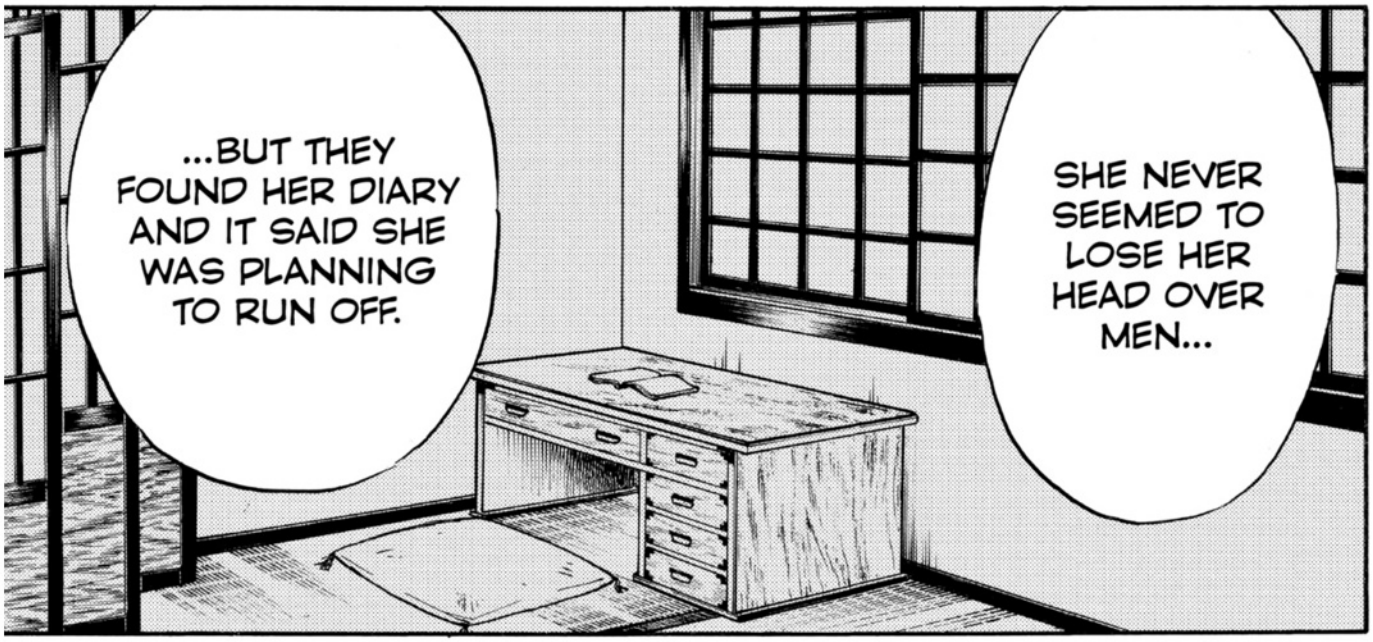

!
WHY DO YOU ASK?

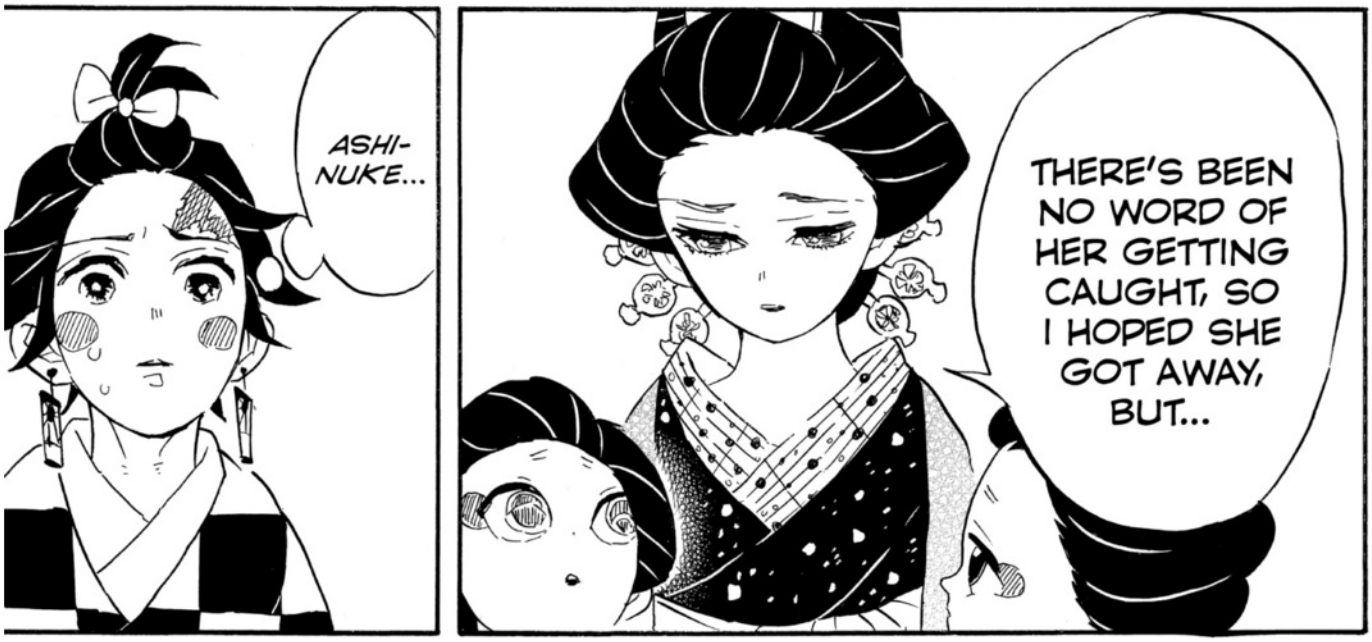
UMMM
ERRR
SUMA OIRAN IS...
PLIP
PLIP
...IS...
Treats!
WITH KOINATSU, I HAVE TO ASK QUESTIONS CAREFULLY ...
WELL ...
... SHE'S CLEVER.

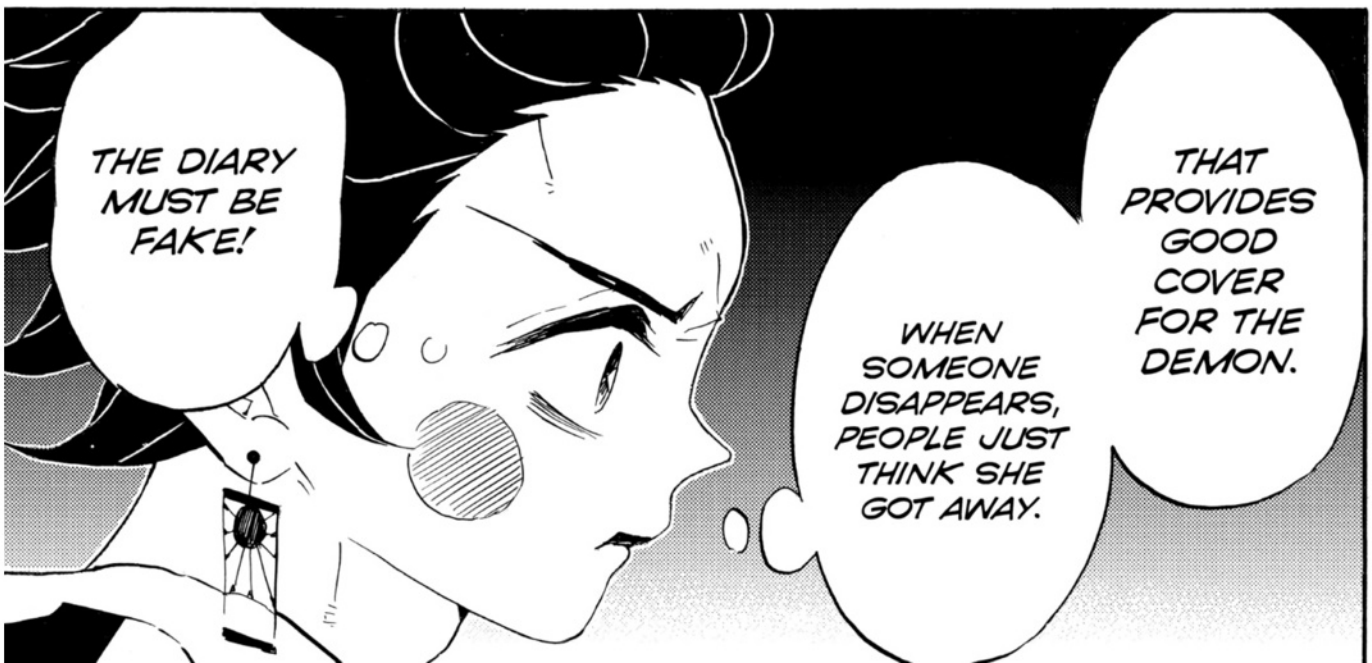

...MY OLDER SISTER.


TANJIRO IS HONEST, SO WHEN HE LIES, HE CAN'T KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE.
← Finds this really hard.

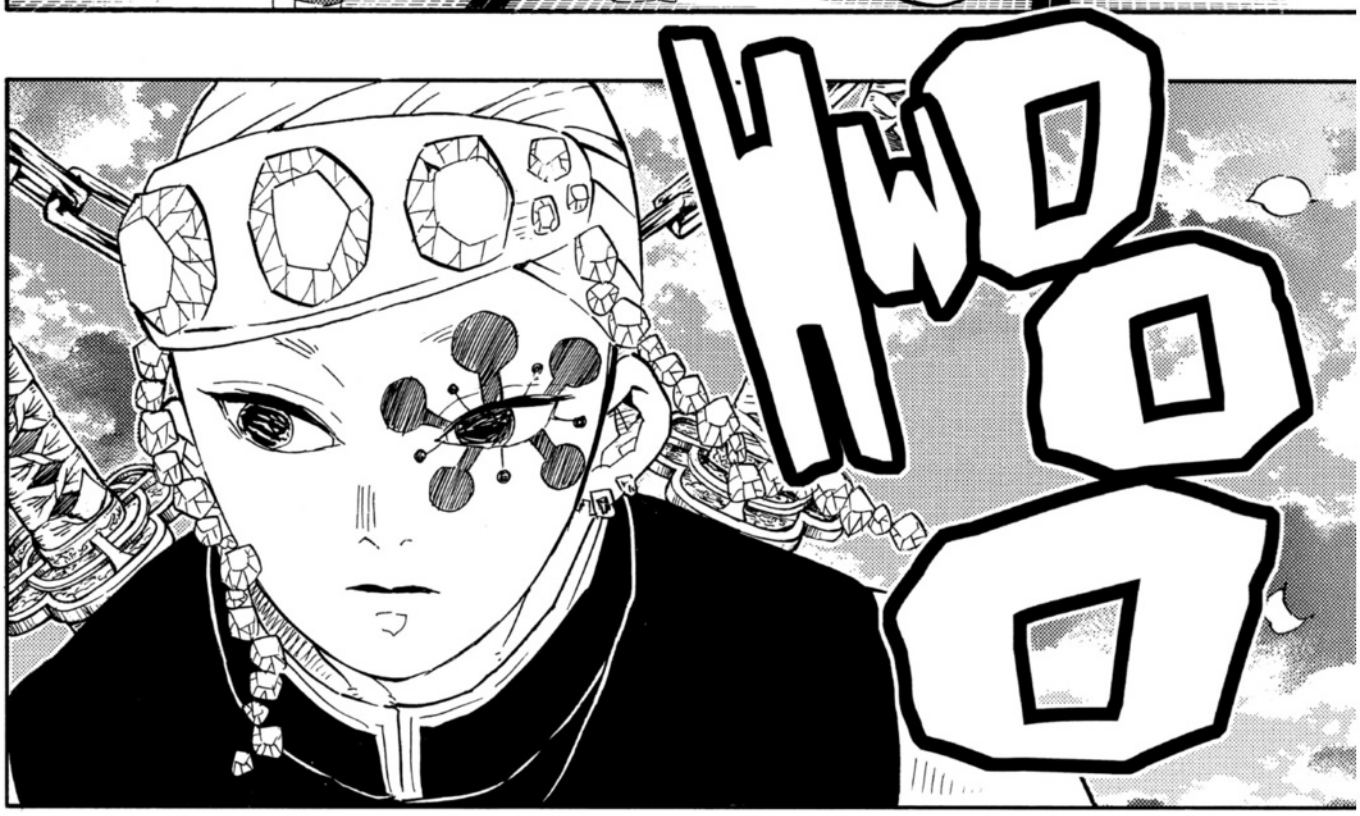
Y-
YEAH.
WE EXCHANGED LETTERS FOR A LONG TIME.
SHE'S NOT THE TYPE TO RUN AWAY.
DID YOU GET SOLD TO THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT LIKE YOUR SISTER?
...
OH... REALLY?
I DIDN'T THINK SUMA WOULD RUN AWAY, EITHER.
SHE WAS A DEPENDABLE YOUNG WOMAN.


SHE NEVER SEEMED TO LOSE HER HEAD OVER MEN...
...BUT THEY FOUND HER DIARY AND IT SAID SHE WAS PLANNING TO RUN OFF.

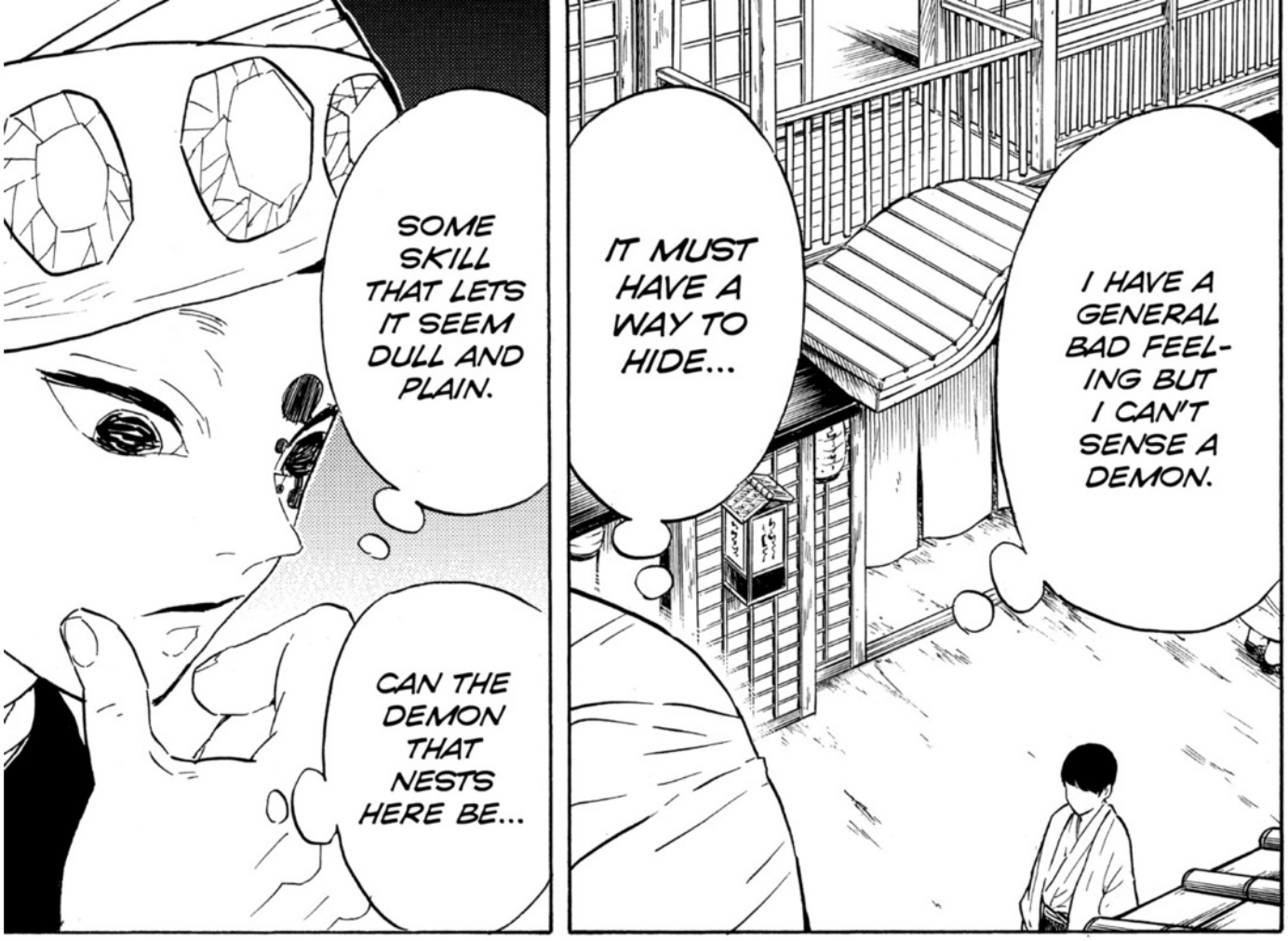

THERE'S BEEN NO WORD OF HER GETTING CAUGHT, SO I HOPED SHE GOT AWAY, BUT...
ASHI-NUKE...


THAT PROVIDES GOOD COVER FOR THE DEMON.
WHEN SOMEONE DISAPPEARS, PEOPLE JUST THINK SHE GOT AWAY.
THE DIARY MUST BE FAKE!

I'LL DEFINITELY FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU!
OH, SUMA...
...PLEASE BE SAFE!

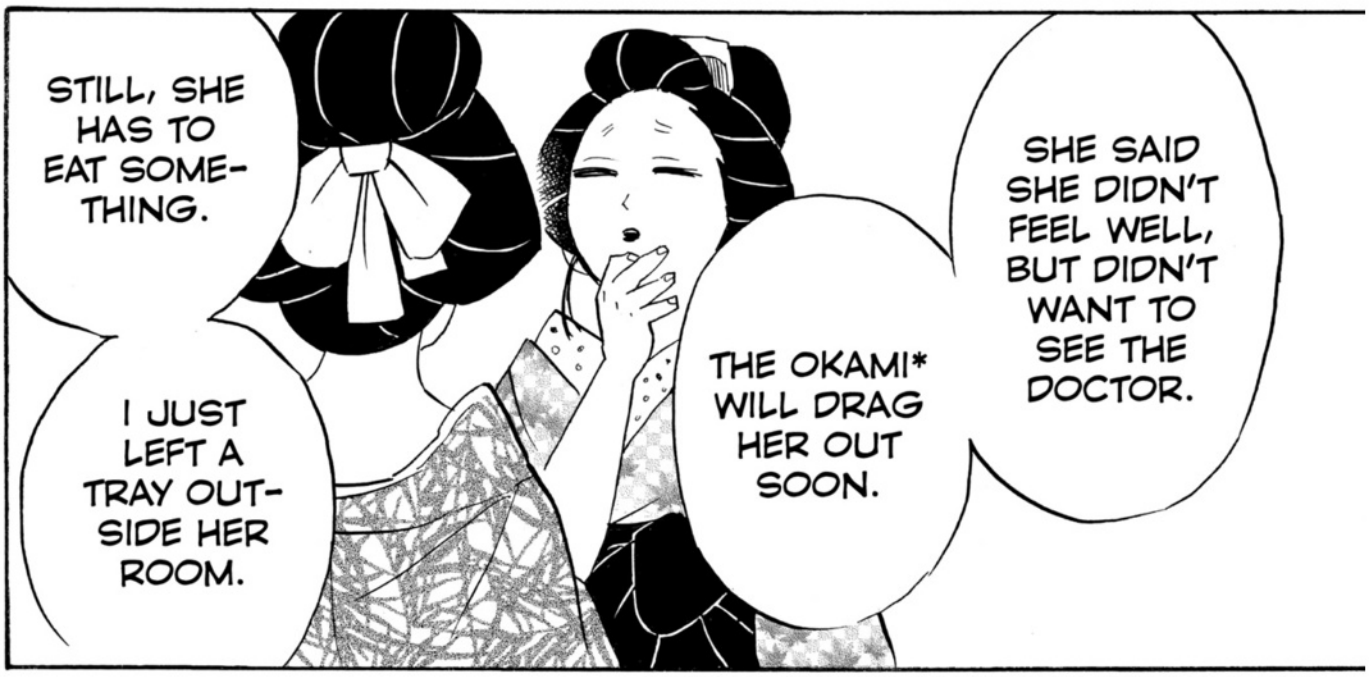

ドロロロ

FOR SOME REASON, THE DEMON WON'T SHOW ITSELF.
NOTHING UNUSUAL TODAY AGAIN.


I HAVE A GENERAL BAD FEELING BUT I CAN'T SENSE A DEMON.
IT MUST HAVE A WAY TO HIDE...
SOME SKILL THAT LETS IT SEEM DULL AND PLAIN.
CAN THE DEMON THAT NESTS HERE BE...

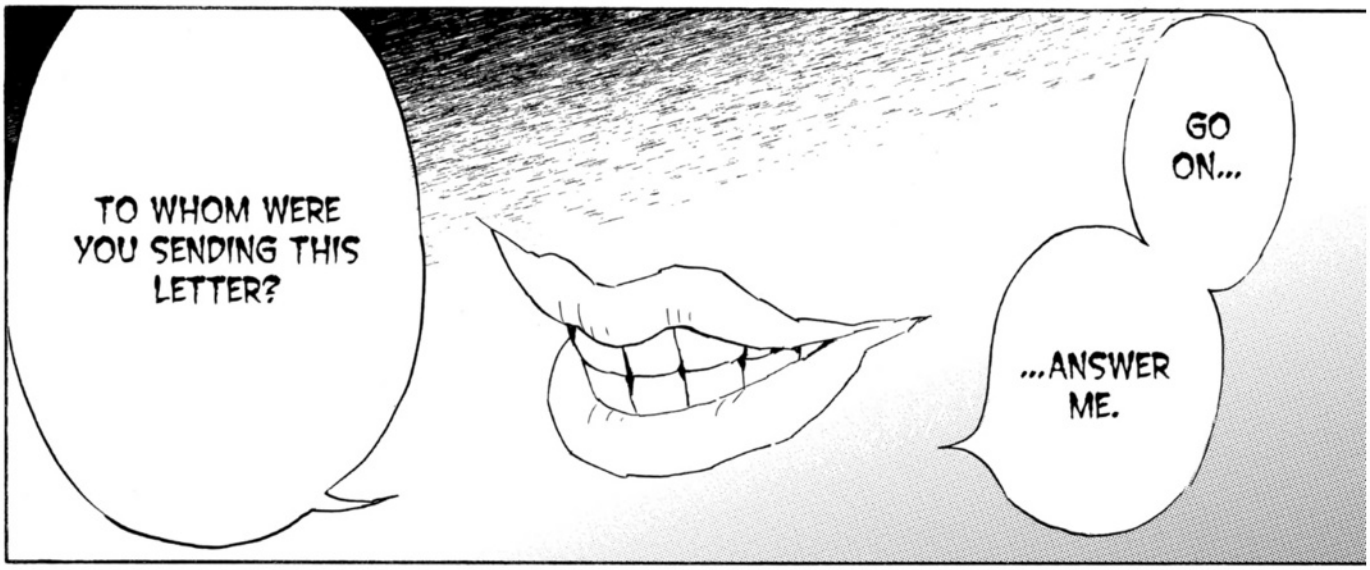
TING
TING
IF SO...
...AN UPPER-RANK DEMON?

...KILLING IT COULD BE REALLY FLASHY!


SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T FEEL WELL, BUT DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THE DOCTOR.
THE OKAMI* WILL DRAG HER OUT SOON.
STILL, SHE HAS TO EAT SOME-THING.
I JUST LEFT A TRAY OUT-SIDE HER ROOM.

*OKAMI: FEMALE INNKEEPER AND MANAGER

SWSH
...
THAT WOMAN CAME FROM THIS DIRECTION.
THEY SAY SHE DOESN'T FEEL WELL.
COULD THAT EXPLAIN HER SILENCE?
SHOULD I GO SEE?
BEING WRAPPED UP LIKE THIS DULLS MY SENSES!
THIS KIMONO IS SO HOT! I WANNA TAKE IT OFF!
SERIOUSLY, THEY'LL KNOW YOU'RE A BOY RIGHT AWAY, SO JUST KEEP QUIET.
YOU'VE GOT A LOUD MOUTH AND YOU SUCK AT SPEAKING FALSETTO.
GNASH
AND IF HE CAN'T TALK, IT'S TOUGH TO GATHER INFORMATION.
GRRR GNASH
FOR INOSUKE ...
...LIVING IN A BUILDING AND WEARING A KIMONO IS A KIND OF TORTURE.
GRIND
GRIND


GO ON...
...ANSWER ME.
TO WHOM WERE YOU SENDING THIS LETTER?

OH, RIGHT. IT'S MAKIO.

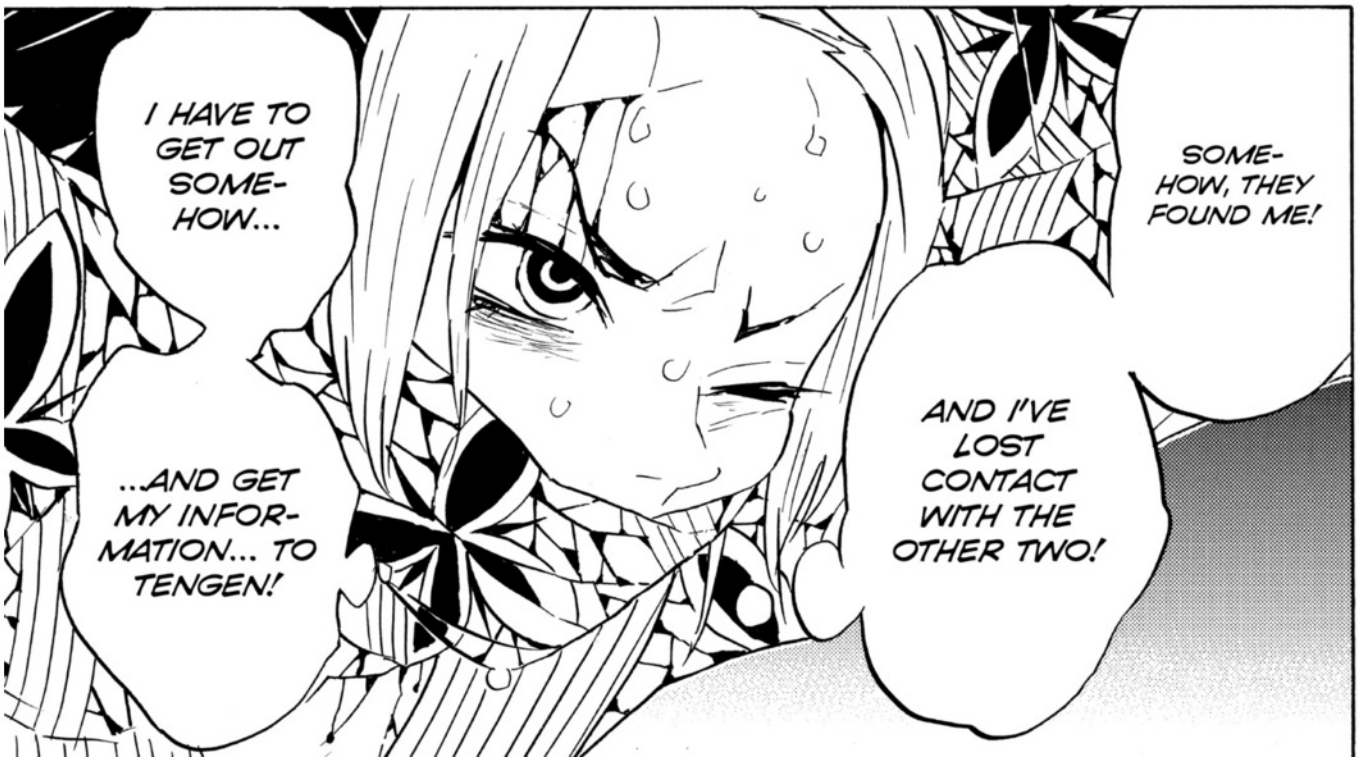
WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?

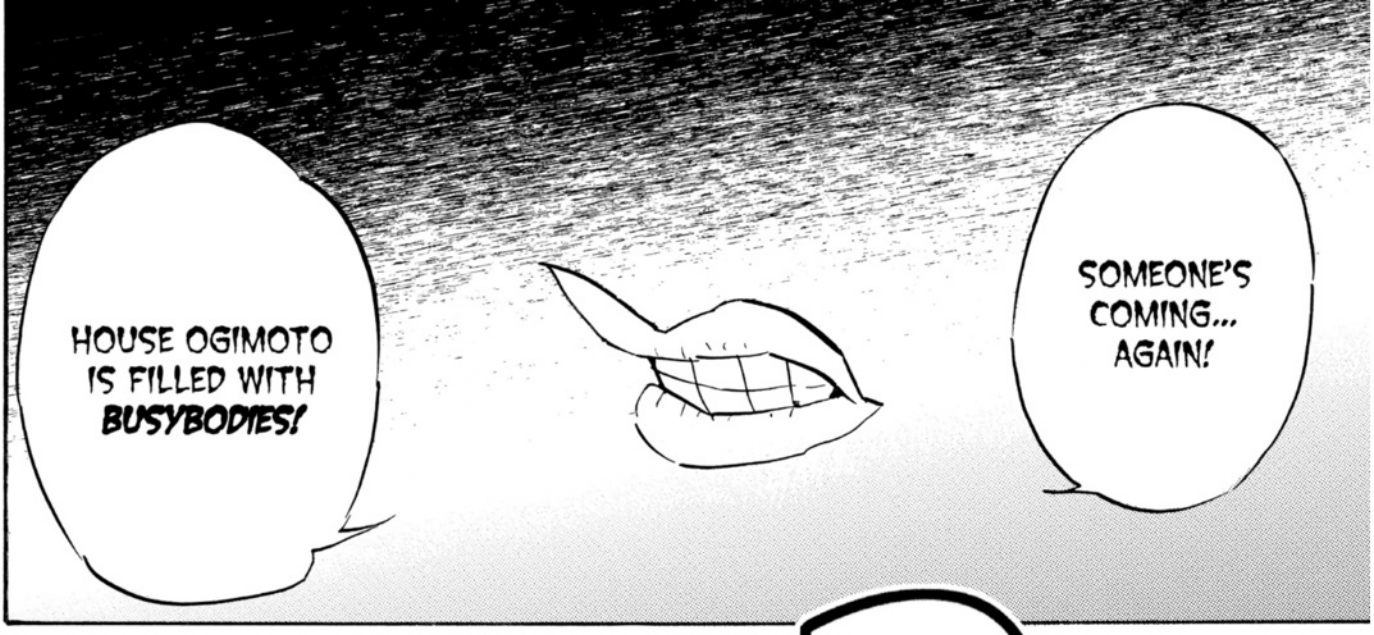
ANSWER ME...
KRIK
KRIK

...
MAKIO!

If someone saw Inosuke changing clothes, they would know he was a boy, so he changed clothes quickly and had some time to kill.
You're flexible!
Whoa! Did you change clothes already? What are you doing ?!
ZOINKS

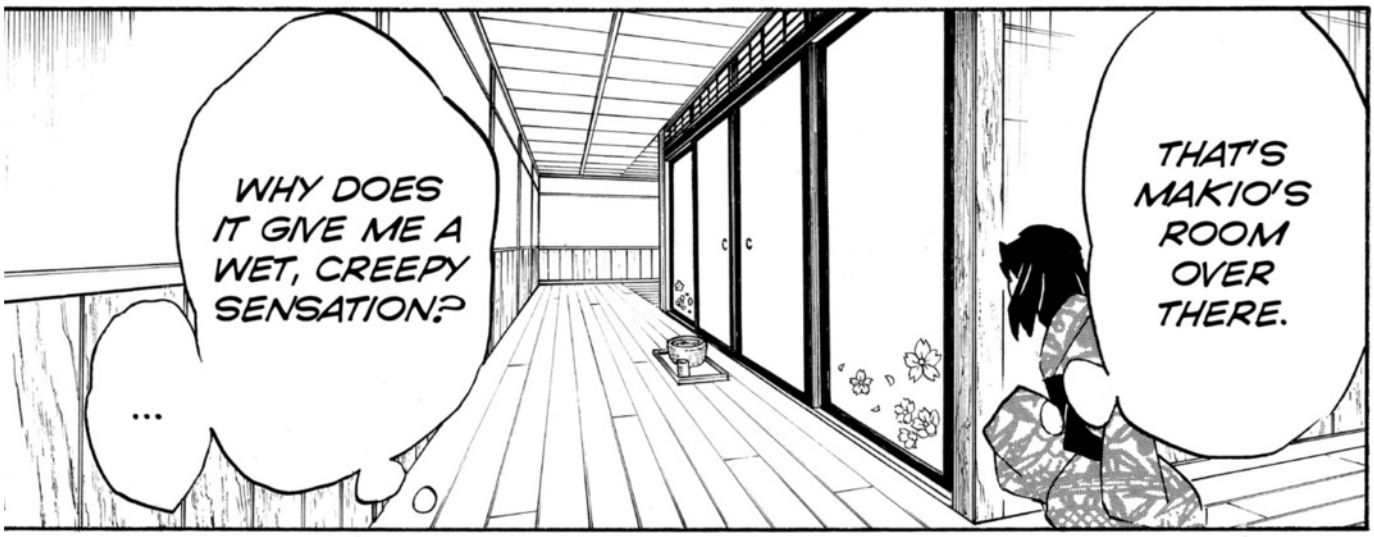
CHAPTER 73:
THE CHASE


I HAVE TO GET OUT SOME-HOW...
...AND GET MY INFOR-MATION... TO TENGEN!
SOME-HOW, THEY FOUND ME!
AND I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE OTHER TWO!

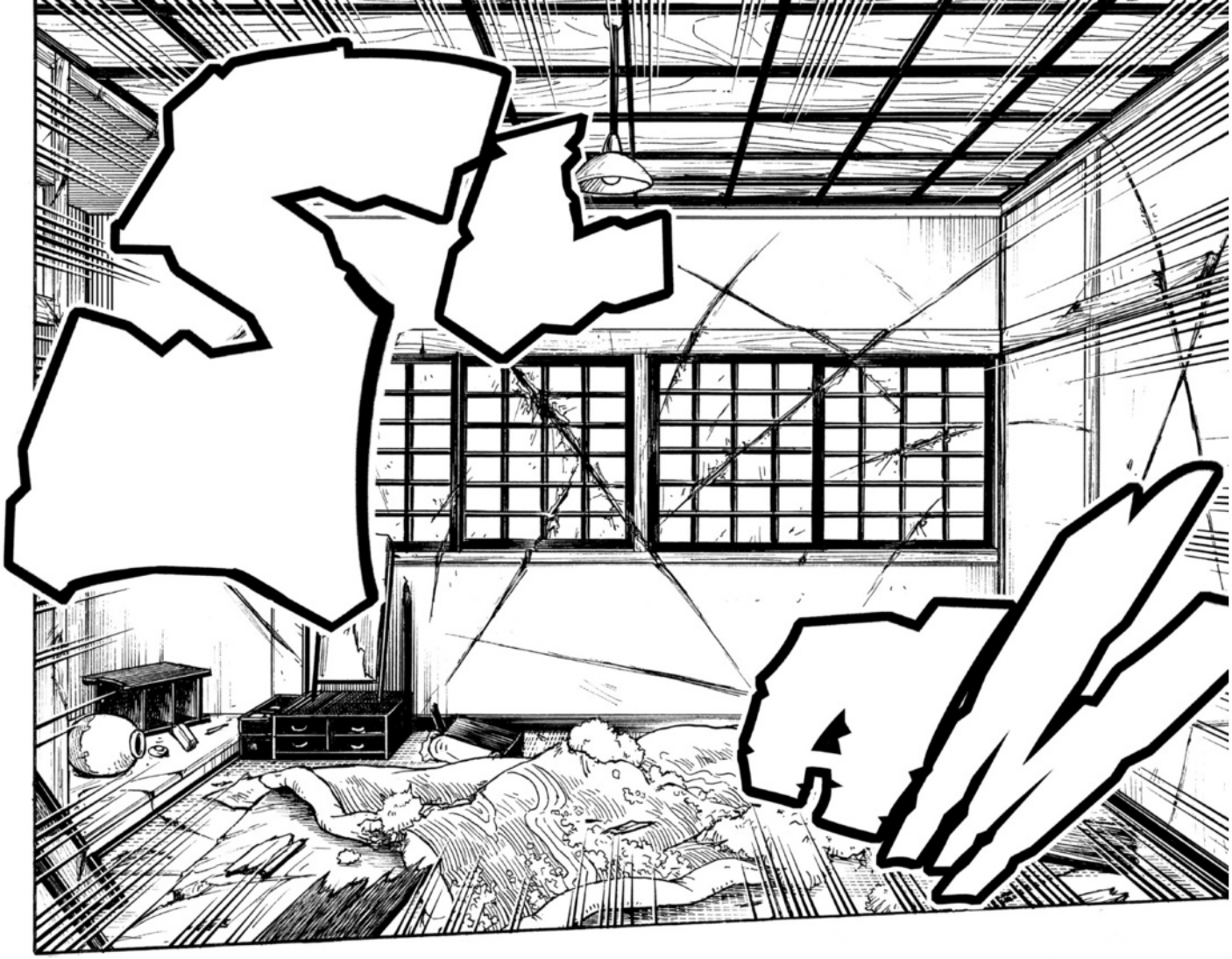

SOMEONE'S COMING... AGAIN!
HOUSE OGIMOTO IS FILLED WITH BUSYBODIES!

MAKE A SOUND AND I'LL CRUSH YOUR GUTS!
UNFF!

HOLD ON!
AM I IN DANGER?
I'M GETTING A REALLY STRANGE FEELING.
I DON'T KNOW.


THAT'S MAKIO'S ROOM OVER THERE.
WHY DOES IT GIVE ME A WET, CREEPY SENSATION?
...

WHOOSH
!
KICK


AH

HWOO

...BUT, THE WINDOW'S CLOSED.
A BREEZE...

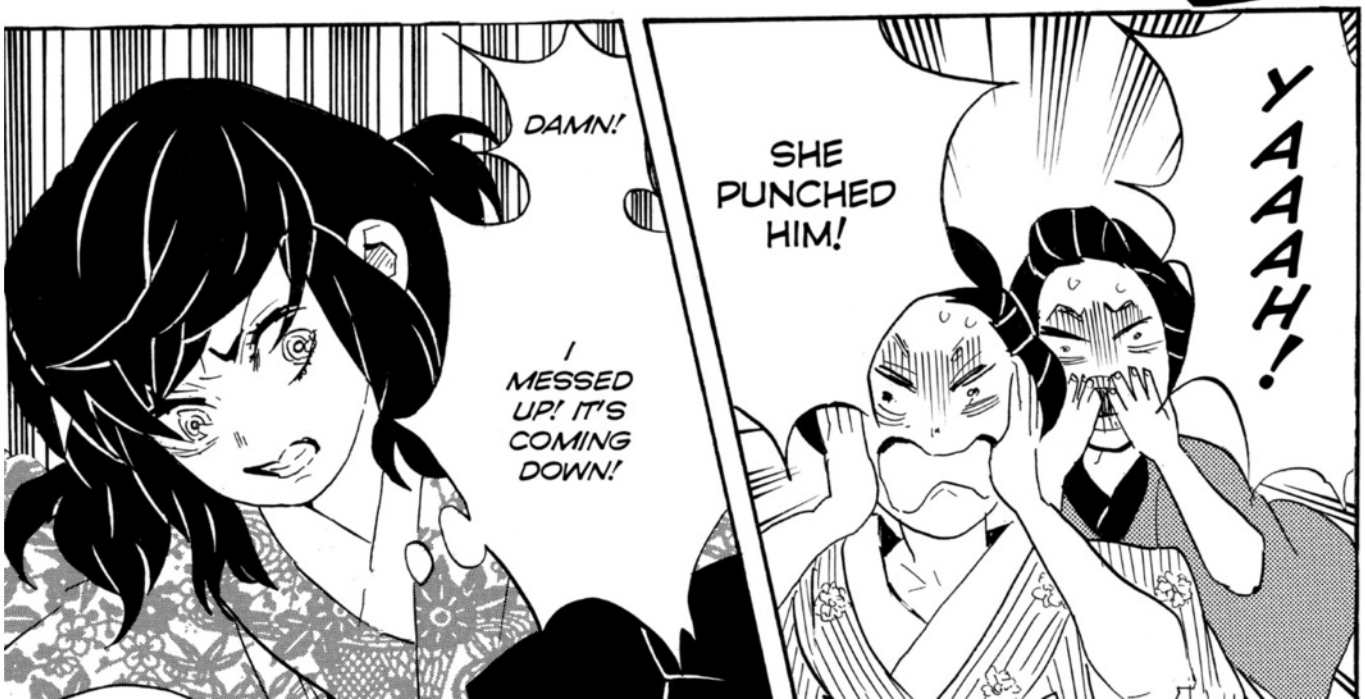
UP IN THE RAFTERS!
I KNEW IT! A DEMON!
IT'S DAYLIGHT NOW, SO IT'S HIDING UP THERE!
HRRAAH!
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE!

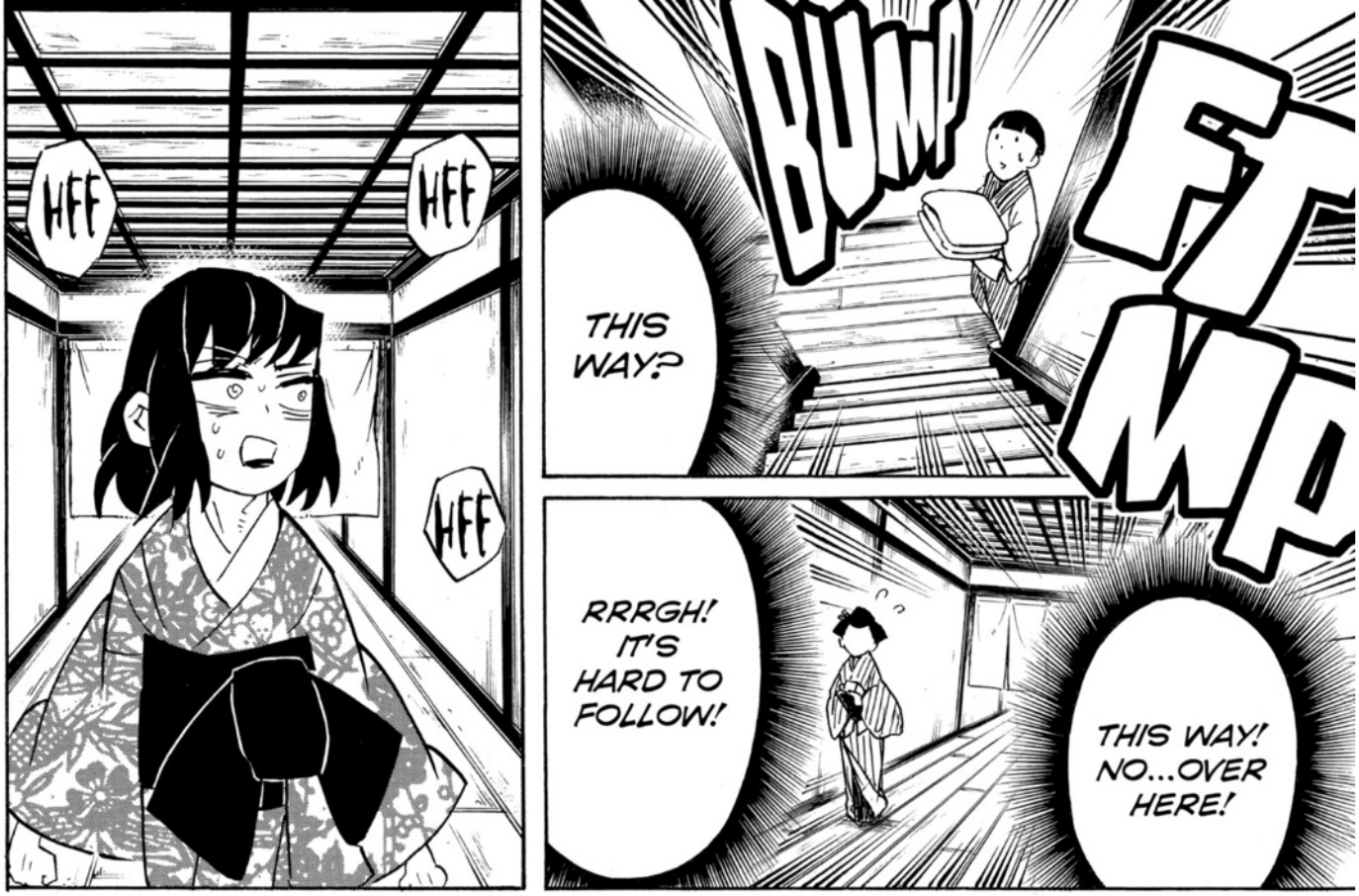
ドカッ
ドカッ
ドカッ

BUNBUN
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRII
FUMI
WHAM
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!

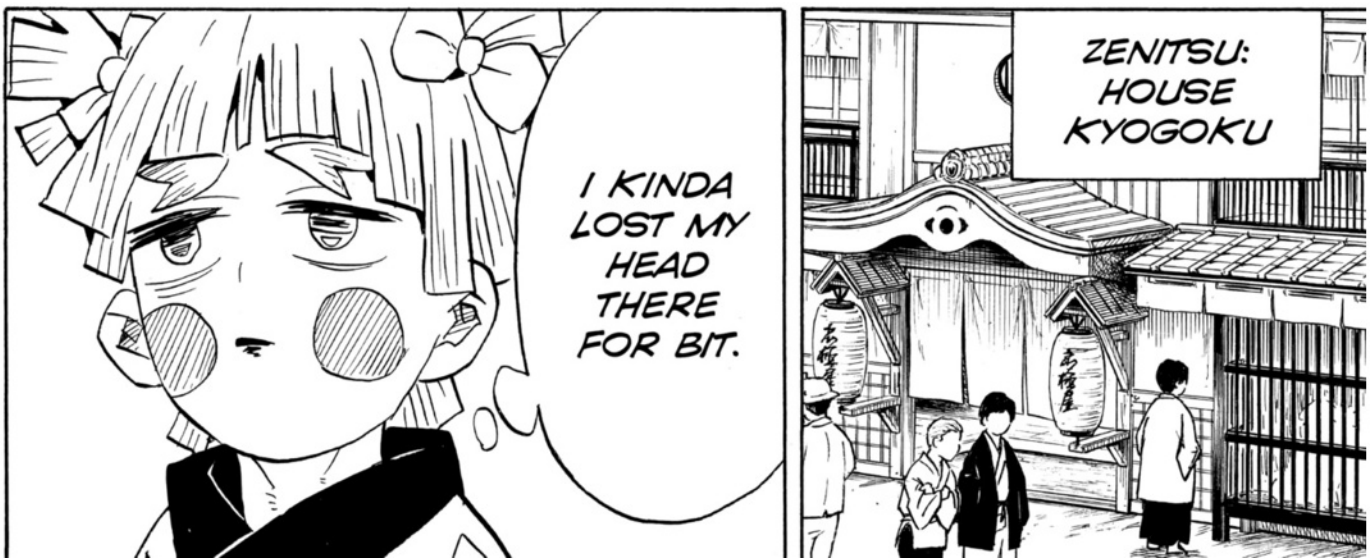
THERE IT GOES! WHERE'S IT HEADED?!
IS IT MOVING FROM THE CEILING THROUGH THE WALLS?
MAYBE I CAN PUNCH THROUGH THE WALL AND DRAG IT OUT!
HERE!
BWAP
FLIP
TMP
SAY...
...WHAT'S A CUTIE LIKE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
SHWP

SMASH
KRUSH


YAAAH!
SHE PUNCHED HIM!
DAMN!
I MESSED UP! IT'S COMING DOWN!


HFF
HFF
HFF
BUMP
FLMP
THIS WAY?
RRRGH! IT'S HARD TO FOLLOW!
THIS WAY! NO...OVER HERE!

...I LOST TRACK OF IT!
GRND GNSH GRND
BECAUSE OF THAT IDIOT GETTING IN MY WAY...


I KINDA LOST MY HEAD THERE FOR BIT.
ZENITSU: HOUSE KYOGOKU

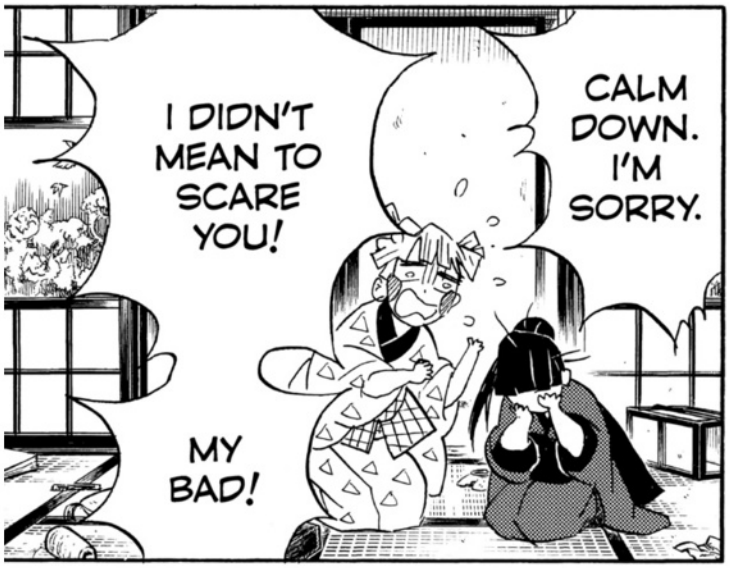
*ROSHU: ESTABLISHMENT MANAGER.

A GIRL IS CRYING!
THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT SOUND!

SOB
SNIFF
SOB

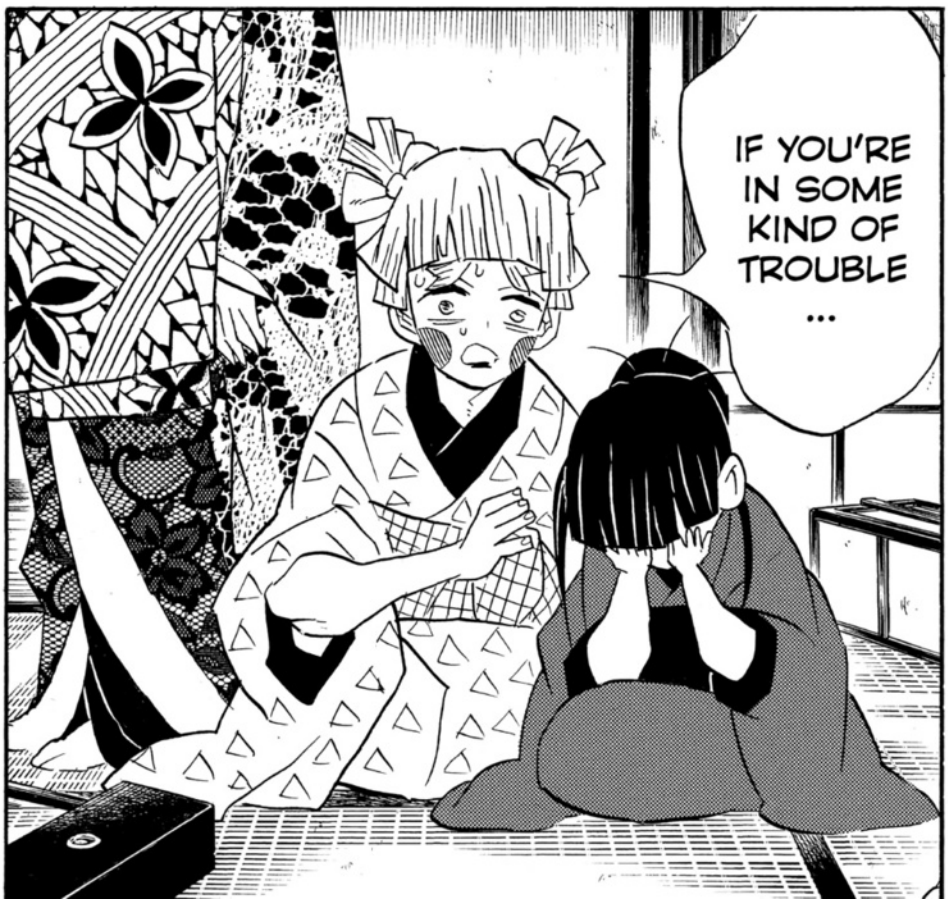
WHAT A MESS! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
HEY...

DID SOME-ONE HIT YOU? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
HUH?
WAS THERE...
...A FIGHT IN HERE?!


I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU!
CALM DOWN. I'M SORRY.
MY BAD!

WAH

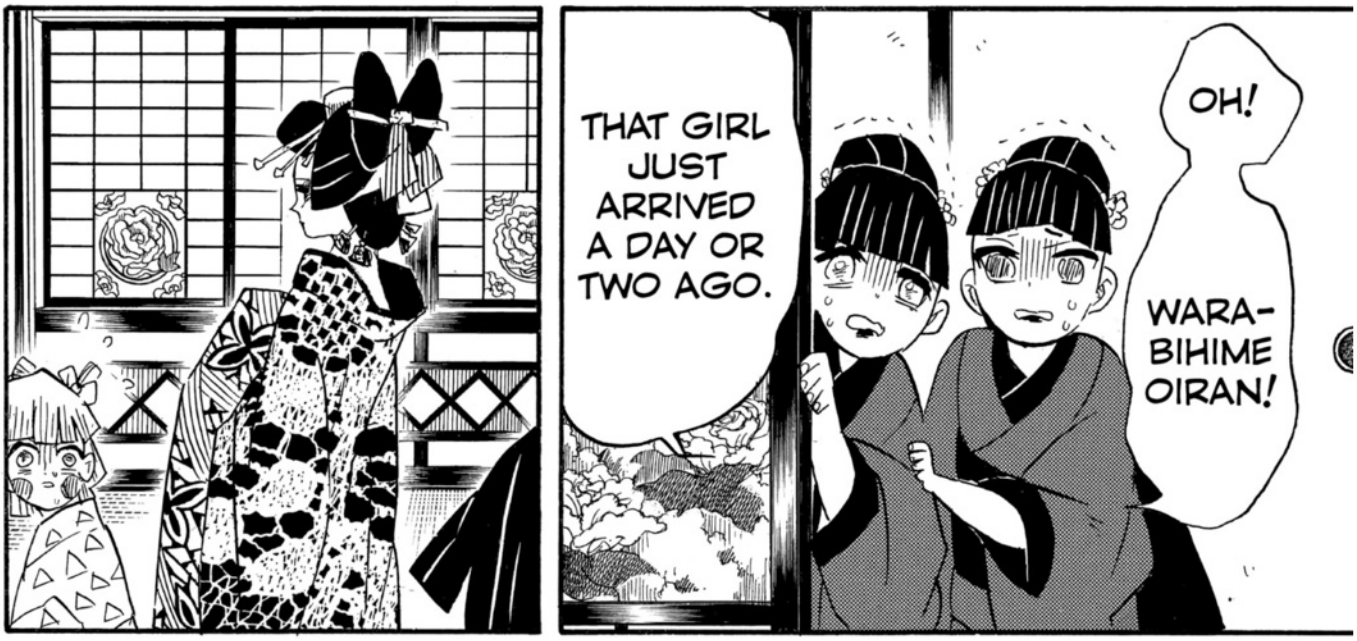
BAMP


IF YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE ...

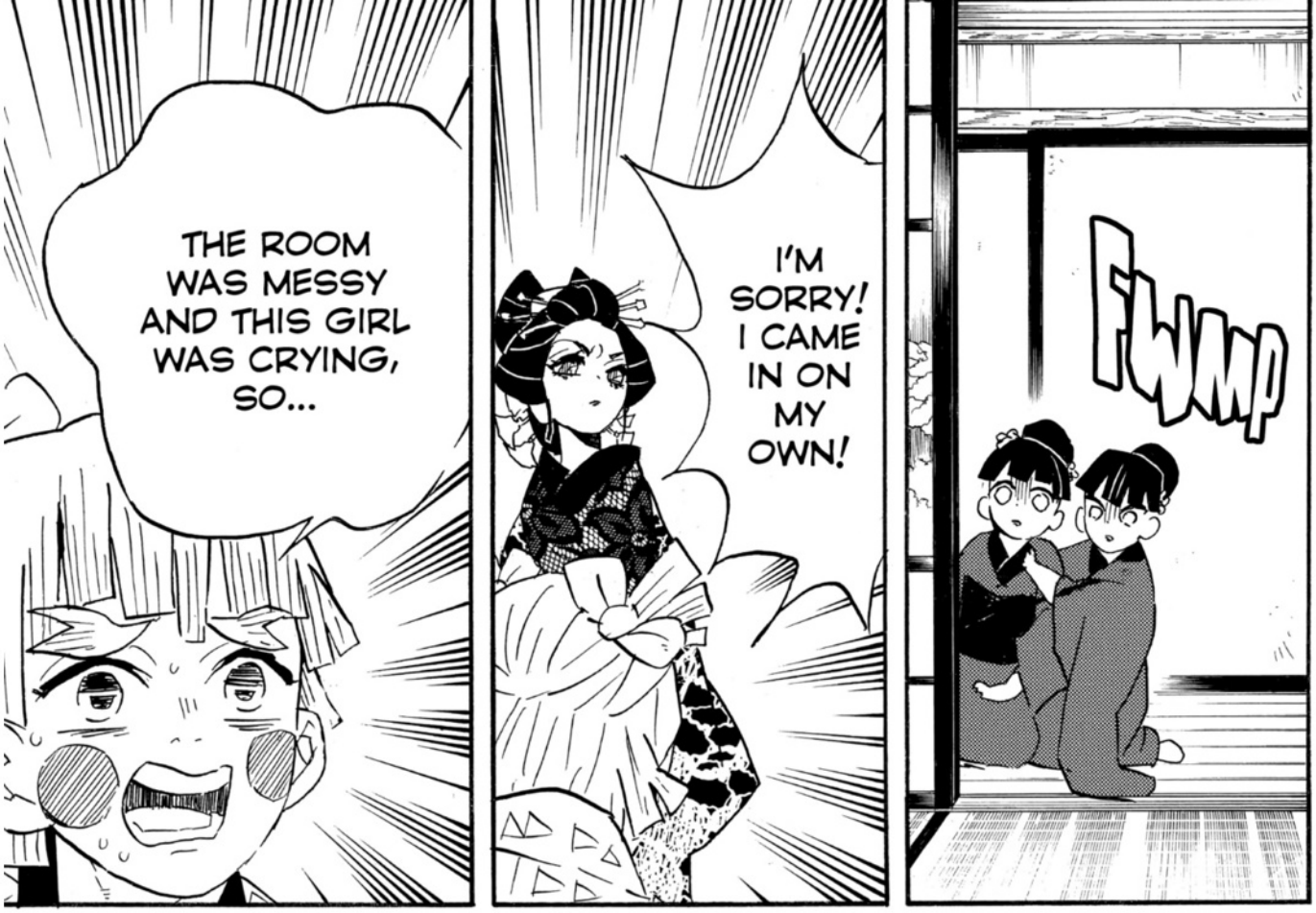
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?

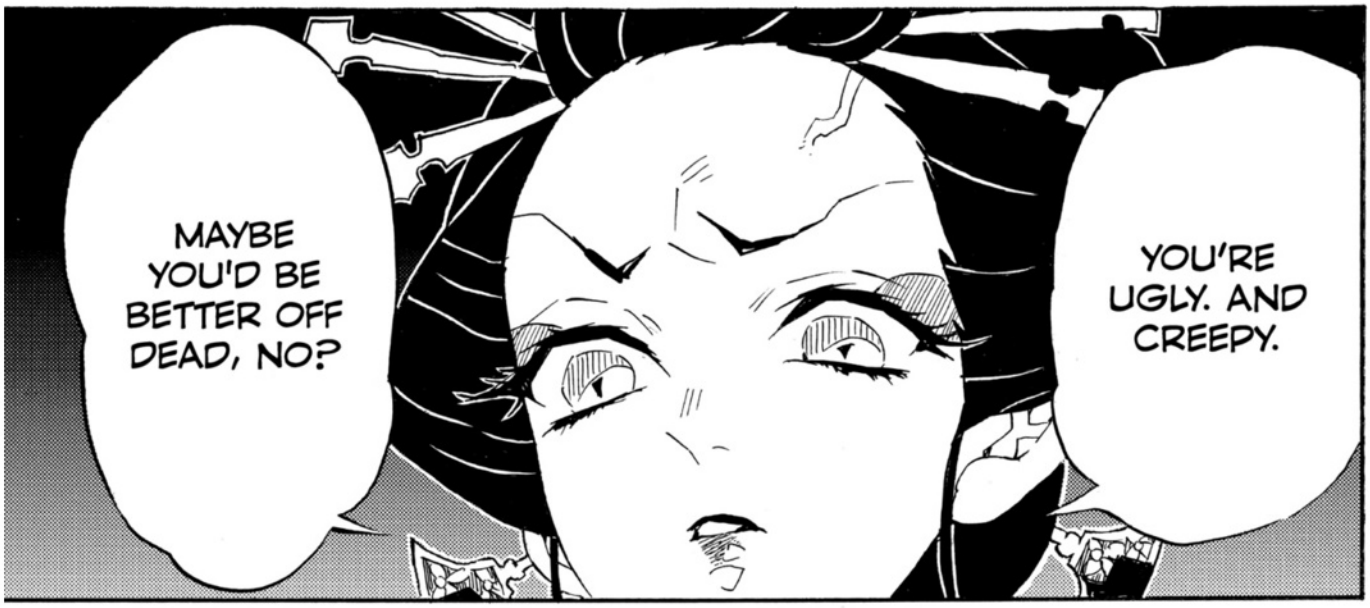
I...I KNOW THAT SOUND
BDDMP
GULP
BDDMP
HUMANS DON'T MAKE THAT SOUND.
THE PERSON BEHIND ME... IS A DEMON!
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
UNTIL SHE SPOKE TO ME, I DIDN'T NOTICE HER AT ALL.
GU
IS IT...
IT'S A WEIRD SOUND, BUT SO QUIET IT'S ACTUALLY SCARY.
IS IT AN UPPER-RANK DEMON?

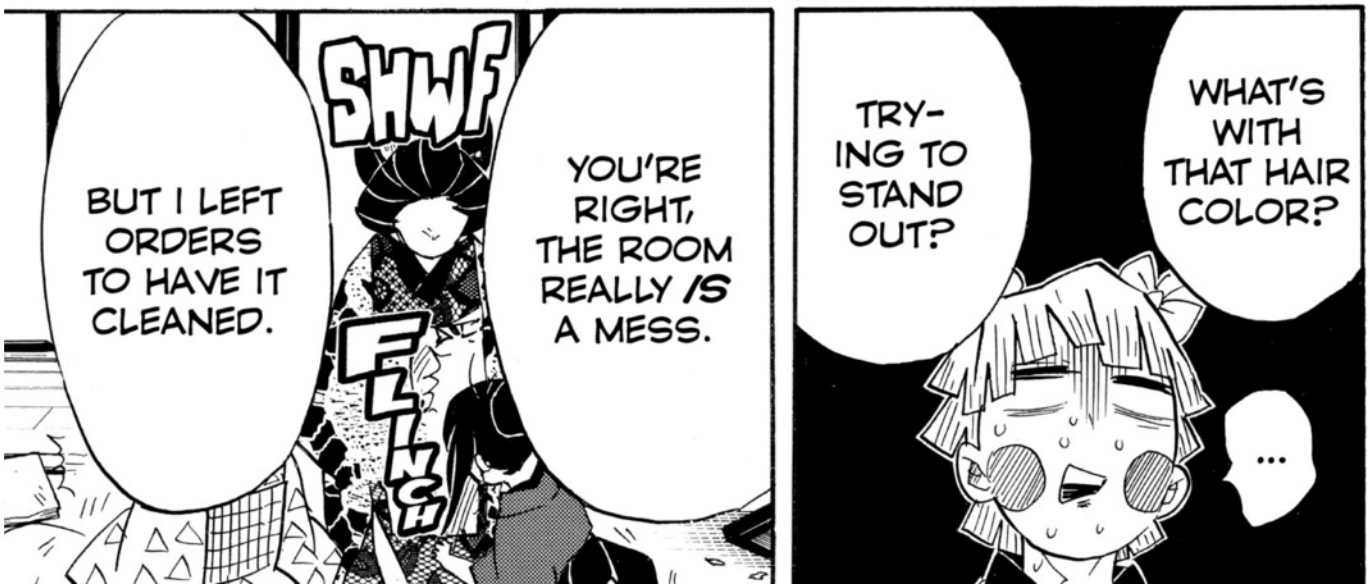
HEY.
DID YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU DEAF?


OH!
WARA-BIHIME OIRAN!
THAT GIRL JUST ARRIVED A DAY OR TWO AGO.

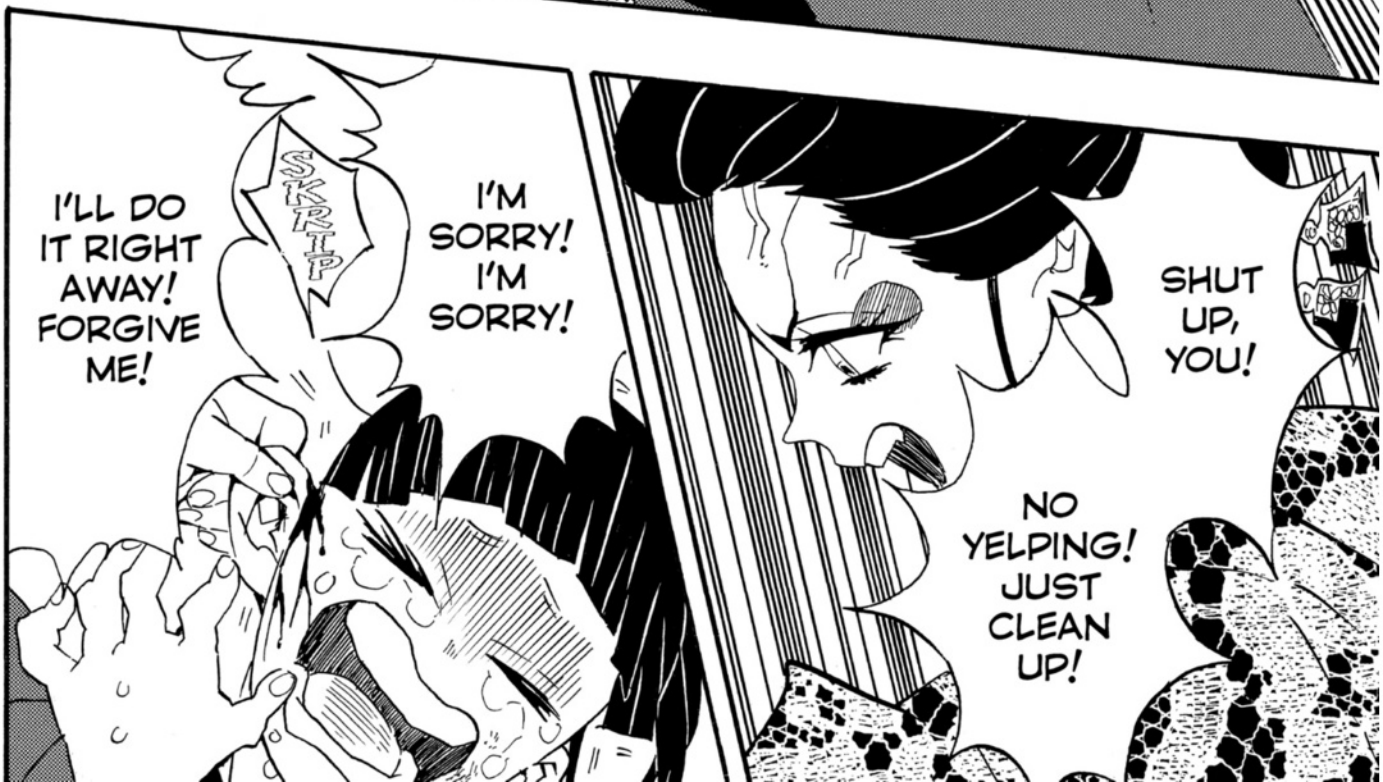
SO?
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER TO ME?


THE ROOM WAS MESSY AND THIS GIRL WAS CRYING, SO...
I'M SORRY! I CAME IN ON MY OWN!
FWMP

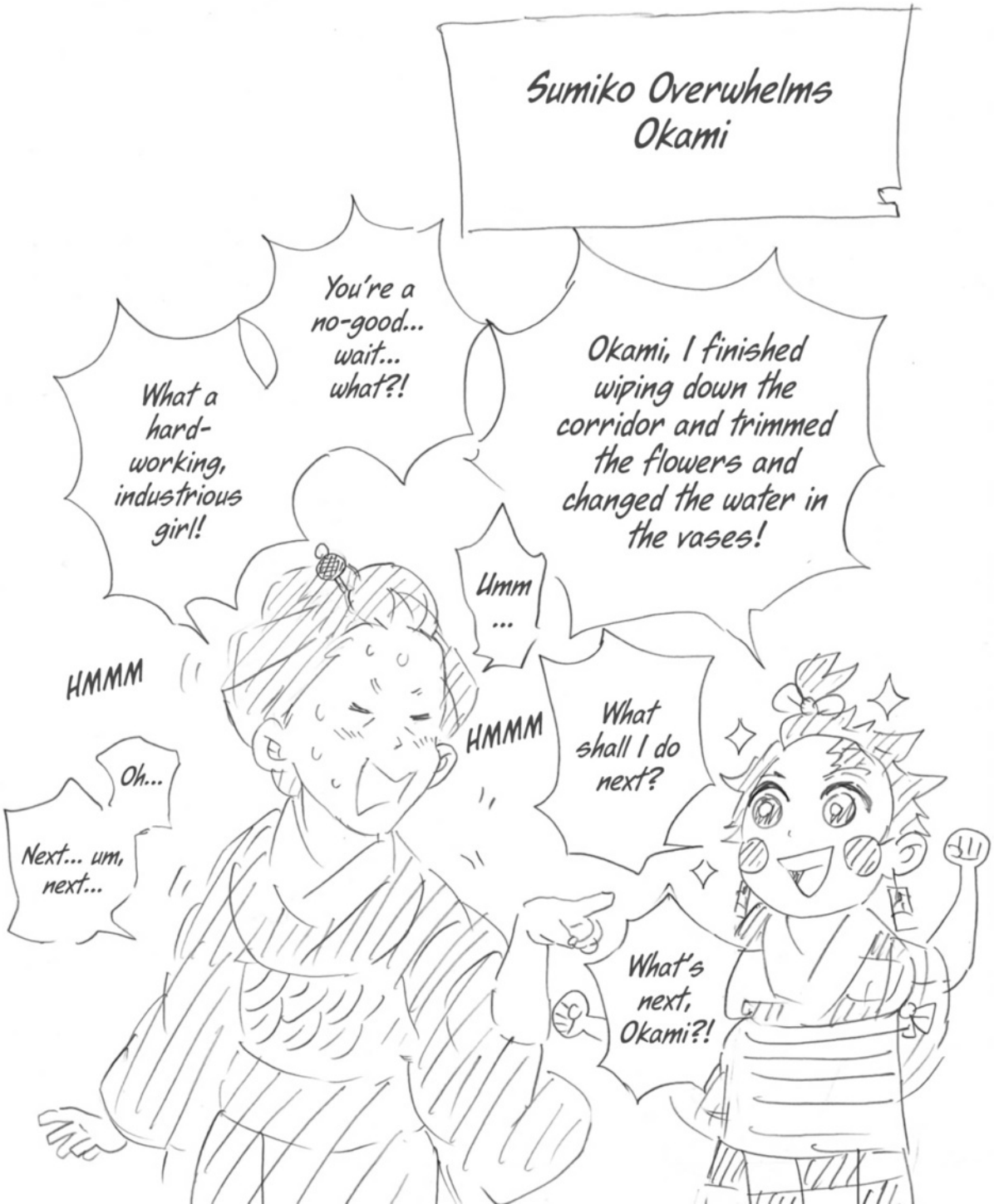

MAYBE YOU'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD, NO?
YOU'RE UGLY. AND CREEPY.


BUT I LEFT ORDERS TO HAVE IT CLEANED.
SHWF
FLINCH
YOU'RE RIGHT, THE ROOM REALLY IS A MESS.
TRY-ING TO STAND OUT?
WHAT'S WITH THAT HAIR COLOR?
...

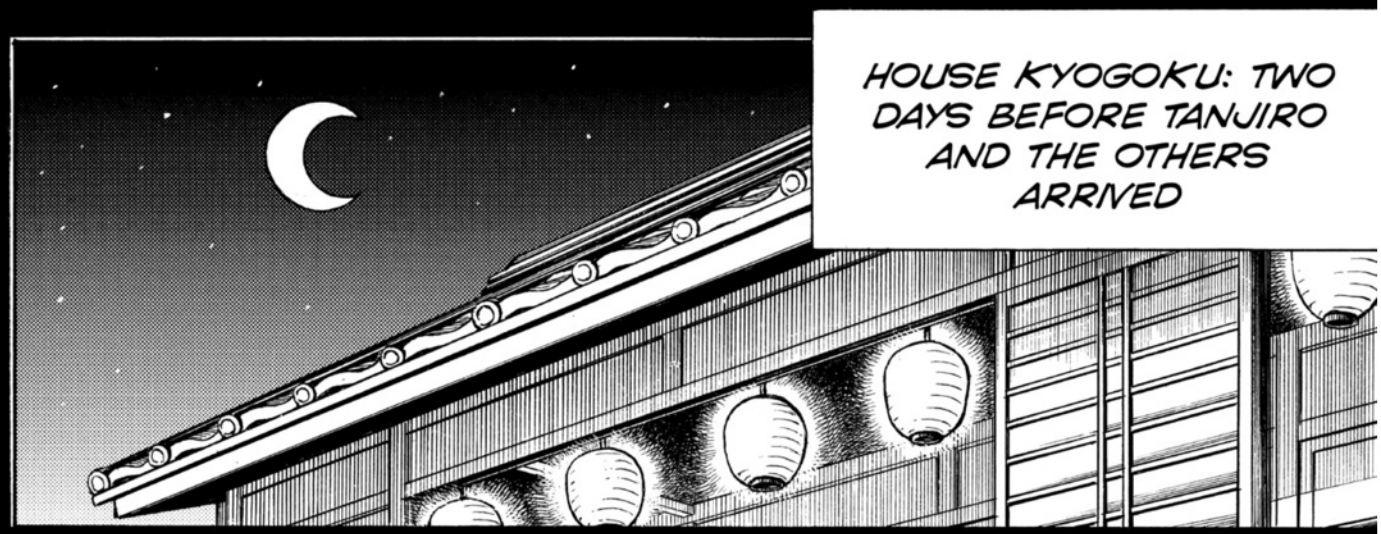
TIG
GYAAH!


SHUT UP, YOU!
NO YELPING! JUST CLEAN UP!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
SKRIP
I'LL DO IT RIGHT AWAY! FORGIVE ME!

YANK
...
...
WHAT?
LET HER GO.
PLEASE ...


Sumiko Overwhelms Okami
Okami, I finished wiping down the corridor and trimmed the flowers and changed the water in the vases!
What a hard-working, industrious girl!
You're a no-good... wait... what?!
Umm...
HMMM
HMMM
What shall I do next?
What's next, Okami?!
Oh...
Next... um, next...

CHAPTER 74: DAKI

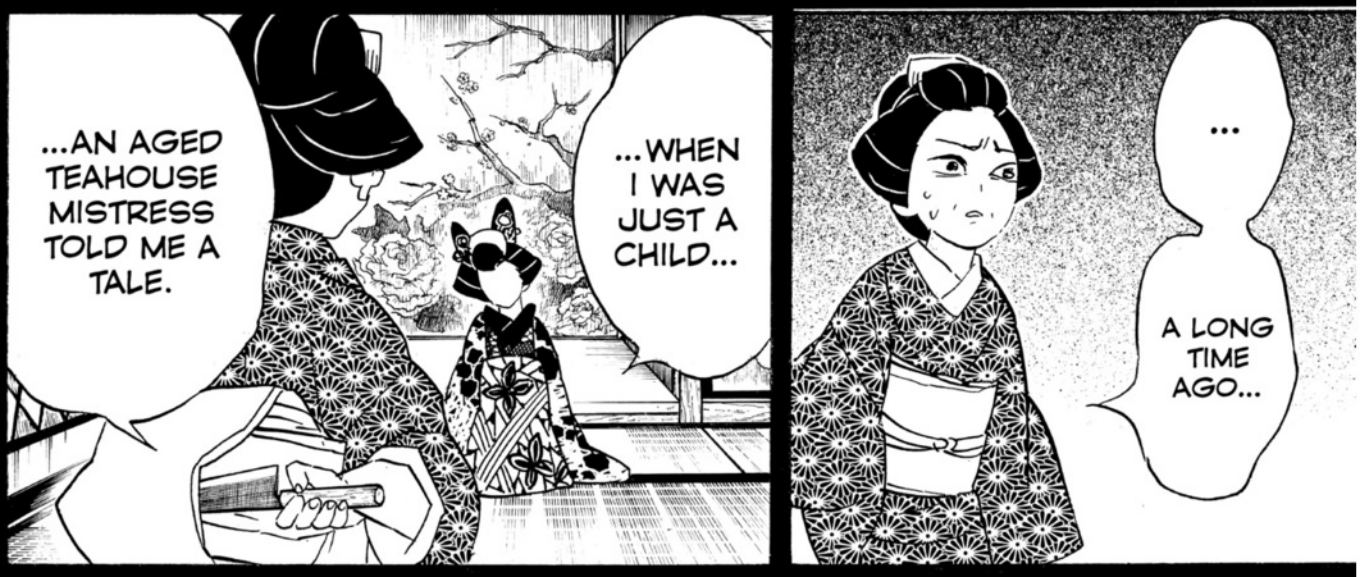

HOUSE KYOGOKU: TWO DAYS BEFORE TANJIRO AND THE OTHERS ARRIVED

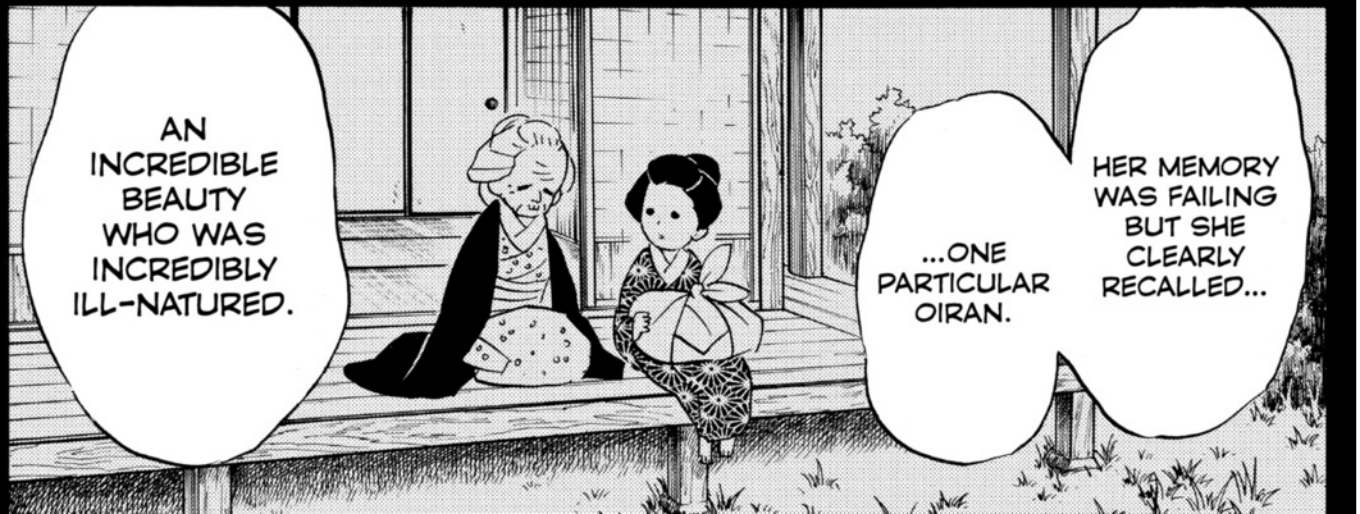
YOU MUST RESTRAIN YOURSELF.

WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

OUR GIRLS ARE GETTING INJURED AND RUNNING AWAY...
...AND COMMIT-TING SUICIDE.
AND YOU BASICALLY BULLIED THAT ONE GIRL TO DEATH, WARABIHIME.
YOU SAY SUCH HURTFUL THINGS, OKAMI.
WHY WON'T YOU TAKE MY SIDE?
DON'T YOU SEE HOW THOSE GIRLS PESTER ME?
...
I'VE LOOKED THE OTHER WAY UP UNTIL NOW BUT...
...I CAN'T KEEP DEFENDING YOU. LATELY...
...YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR.

OLD WOMAN, WHERE WOULD THIS ESTABLISH-MENT BE WITHOUT THE MONEY AND RESPECT I BRING TO IT?

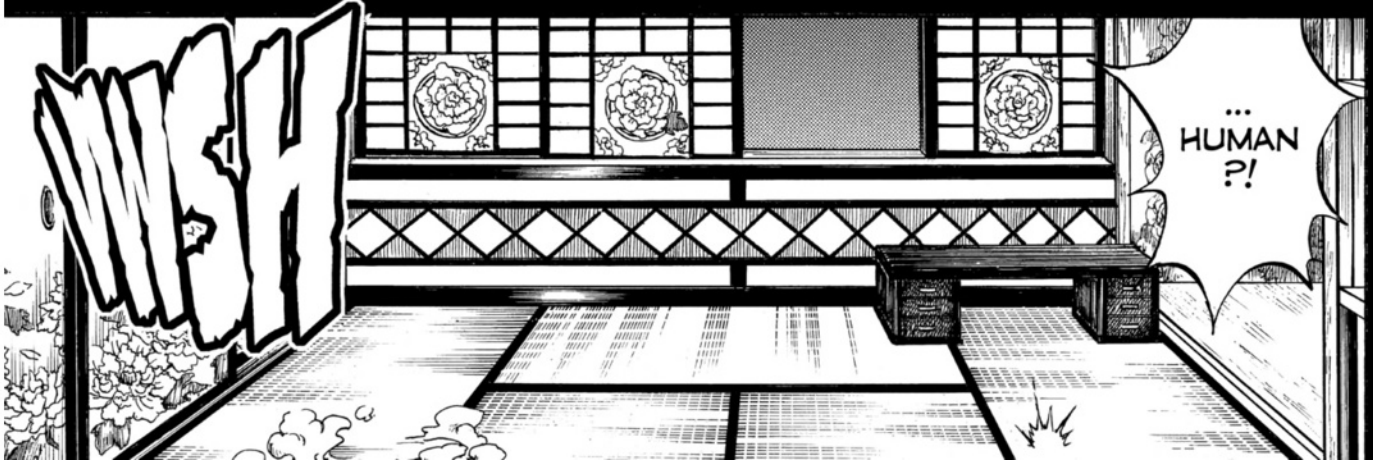

...
A LONG TIME AGO...
...WHEN I WAS JUST A CHILD...
...AN AGED TEAHOUSE MISTRESS TOLD ME A TALE.


HER MEMORY WAS FAILING BUT SHE CLEARLY RECALLED...
...ONE PARTICULAR OIRAN.
AN INCREDIBLE BEAUTY WHO WAS INCREDIBLY ILL-NATURED.

SHE SAID SHE KNEW THIS OIRAN WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD, BUT IN HER MIDDLE YEARS SHE SAW ANOTHER JUST LIKE HER.
BOTH THESE OIRANS HAD NAMES THAT ENDED WITH "HIME*," AND WHEN SOMETHING DISPLEASED THEM...

*HIME: PRINCESS

...EACH ONE HAD THE SAME DISTINCTIVE WAY OF TILTING THEIR HEAD...
...AND GLARING UP FROM UNDER THEIR BROW.
J-J-JUST L-LIKE YOU...?!
IS IT POSSIBLE ...
...THAT YOU'RE NOT EVEN...



THEY SAY THE SECRET TO LIVING A LONG LIFE...
...IS TO KEEP SILENT WHEN YOU SEE HORRIBLE THINGS.
THAT'S HOW EVERYONE AROUND ME HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE...
...AT LEAST UNTIL TONIGHT.

BUT IT APPEARS THAT YOU, OMITSU...
...ARE FAR MORE STUPID THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR.
TOO BAD FOR YOU. TOO BAD INDEED.

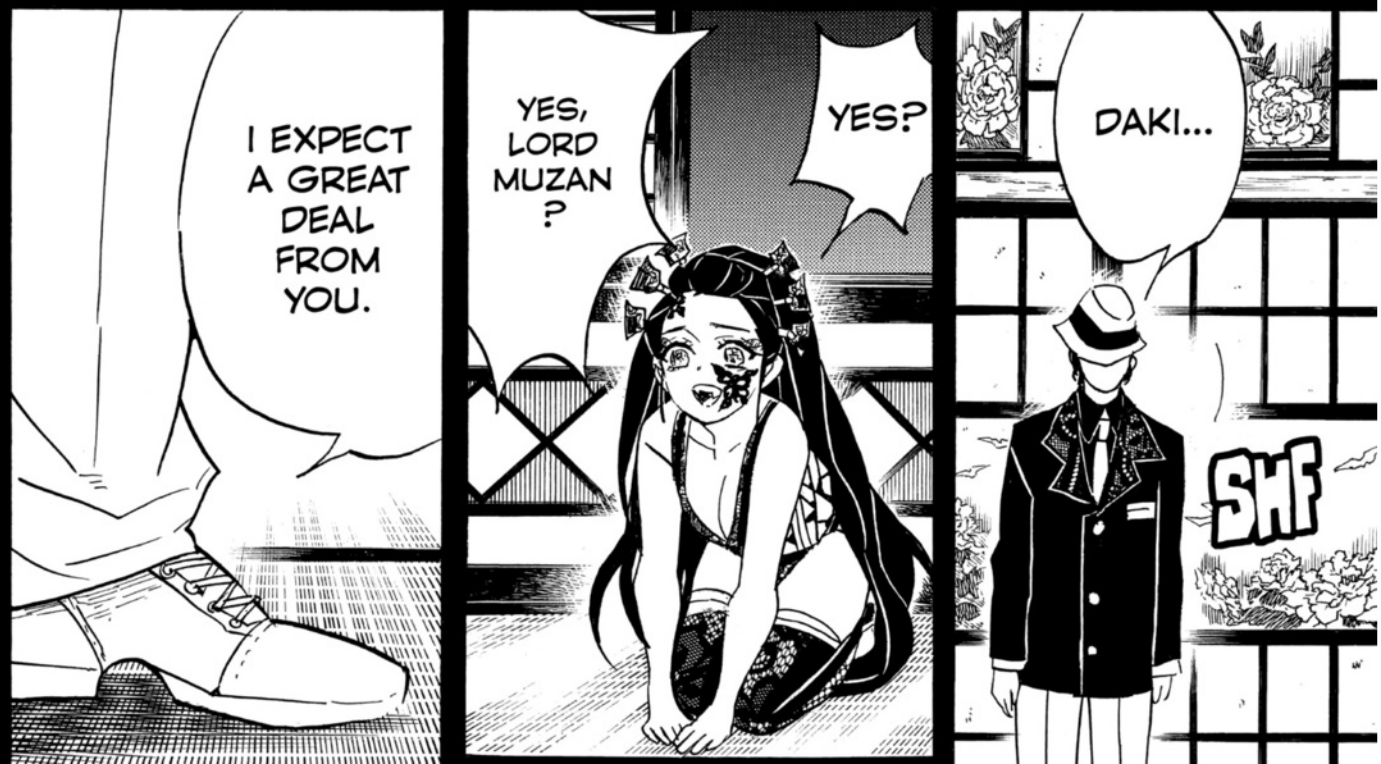
YOU DON'T HAVE LOOK SO TERRIFIED, OLD WOMAN.
AS HUMANS AGE, THEIR FLESH GROWS SHRIVELED AND BITTER. AND I...
...WOULD NEVER EAT ANYTHING SO FILTHY AND AWFUL.
YOUR DEATH WILL COME FROM A BAD FALL.
GOODBYE, OMITSU.
NO—

THUD
WHAT?
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WHAT WAS IT?
HEY! WAKE UP!
TP
SHE FELL! WHO IS IT?
OH NO! ISN'T THAT THE OKAMI?!
GYAAAH! SHE'S DEAD!

HURRY! SOMEONE CALL THE HOUSE MASTER!
ナ゛ナ゛ナ゛ナ゛ナ゛ナ゛!
!
LORD MUZAN!
HOW ARE YOU FEEL-ING?

IT APPEARS YOU'VE FEASTED ON QUITE A FEW HUMANS.
YOU'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE.
THAT'S GOOD.
BOW
YES, LORD!
BUT DON'T GET CARE-LESS.
THE LONGER THINGS GO WELL, THE EASIER IT IS TO SLIP UP.
YES, SIRE. I UNDER-STAND.

THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS... SOMEONE SKILLED LIKE A HASHIRA WILL SOON REALIZE THERE'S A DEMON AT WORK HERE.
THE TROUBLE IS, WE CAN BARELY TELL HUMANS APART JUST BY SIGHT UNLESS THEY'RE POWERFUL LIKE A HASHIRA.
STILL, WE CAN DISTINGUISH THINGS HUMANS HARDLY EVEN UNDERSTAND, LIKE BLOOD TYPE, SICKNESS AND GENES.


DAKI...
SHF
YES?
YES, LORD MUZAN?
I EXPECT A GREAT DEAL FROM YOU.

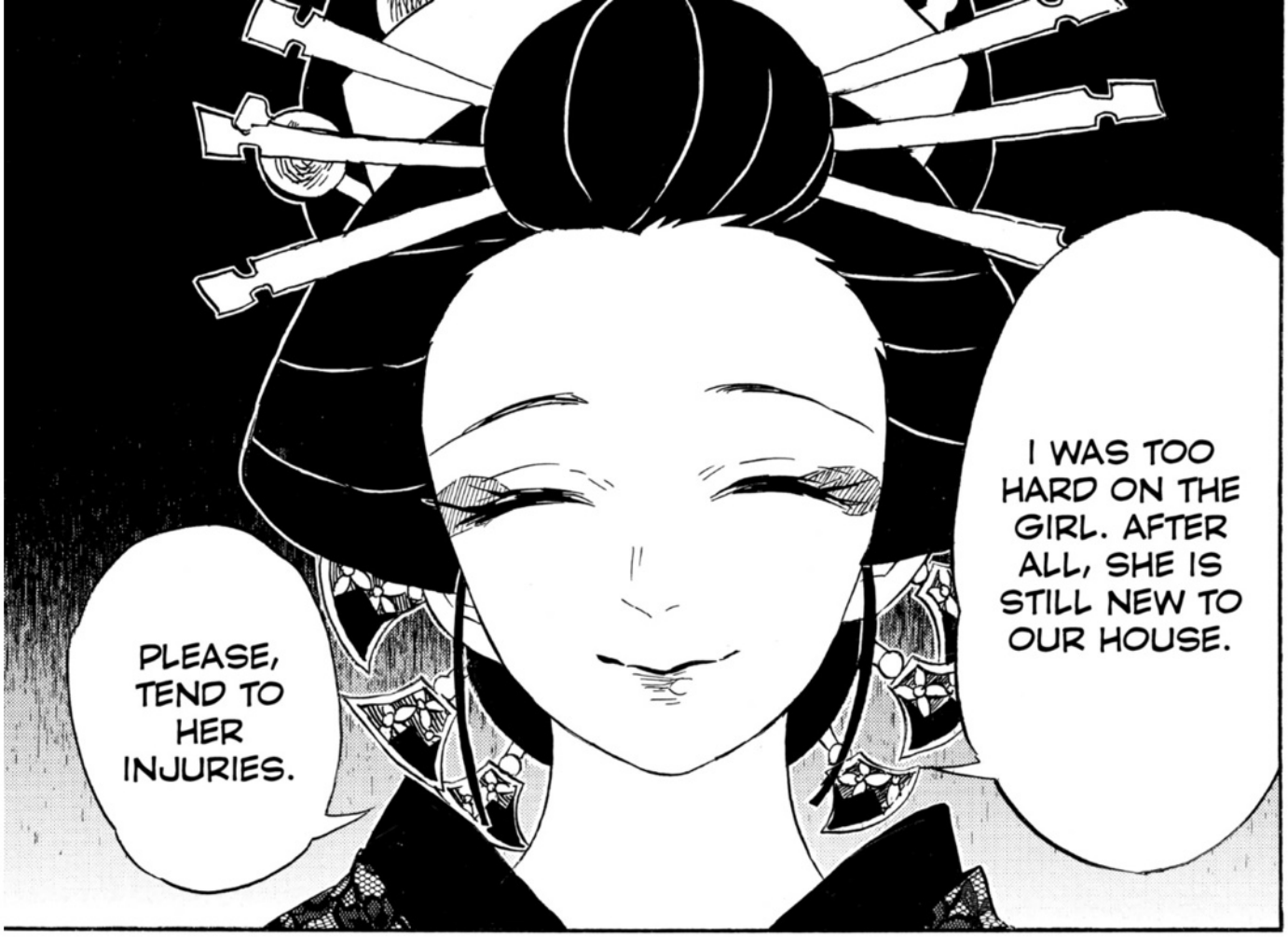
YOU ARE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATURE THERE IS...
...AND YOU PUT SEVEN STRONG HASHIRA IN THEIR GRAVES.
FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL BE EVEN STRONGER AND CRUELER.
YOU ARE A SPECIAL DEMON.

AHAHAHA

SHE REQUIRES DISCIPLINE.
HARSH DISCIPLINE.
DON'T BE SO INSOLENT AS TO EVER TOUCH ME AGAIN.
THIS BRAT IS BOLD AND WILLFUL.

HSP
TMP
WARA-BIHIME OIRAN!

BLOW
IT'S ALMOST OPENING TIME! CUSTOMERS ARE COMING!
OF COURSE YOU ARE RIGHT!
I WILL SCOLD HER STERNLY, BUT FOR NOW...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
PLEASE DON'T BRING SHAME ON ME.
MASTER, RAISE YOUR HEAD.
IT IS I WHO SHOULD BE SORRY. OF LATE, MANY THINGS HAVE GOTTEN ON MY NERVES.

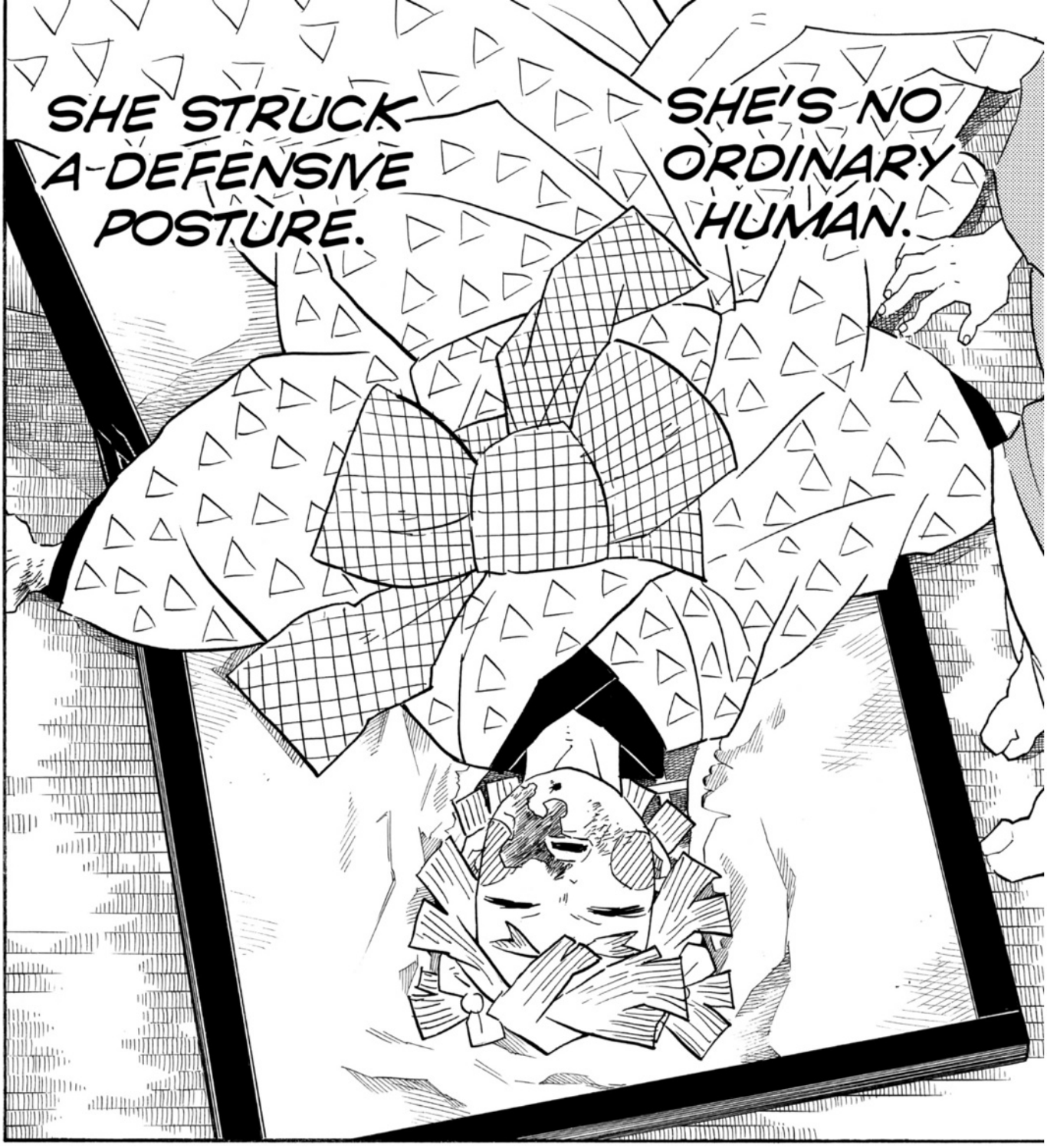

I WAS TOO HARD ON THE GIRL. AFTER ALL, SHE IS STILL NEW TO OUR HOUSE.
PLEASE, TEND TO HER INJURIES.

GET THE OTHERS! CLEAN UP QUICKLY!
AND DON'T DO ANY-THING TO GET ON WARABIHIME OIRAN'S NERVES!

I MUST PREPARE MYSELF. CLEAN UP QUICKLY!
Y-YES, OIRAN!
YES...

...ALTHOUGH SHE LOST CON-SCIOUSNESS...
...HER INJURIES ARE LIGHT.

THAT BRAT!
I CAN SENSE THAT...

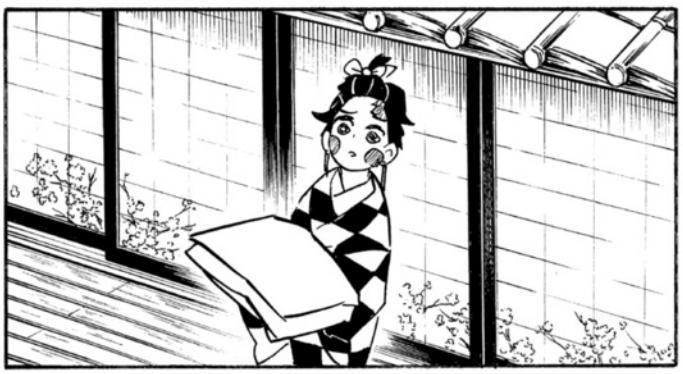

SHE STRUCK A DEFENSIVE POSTURE.
SHE'S NO ORDINARY HUMAN.

BUT SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE SKILLS OF A HASHIRA!
SHE PROBABLY BELONGS TO THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS.

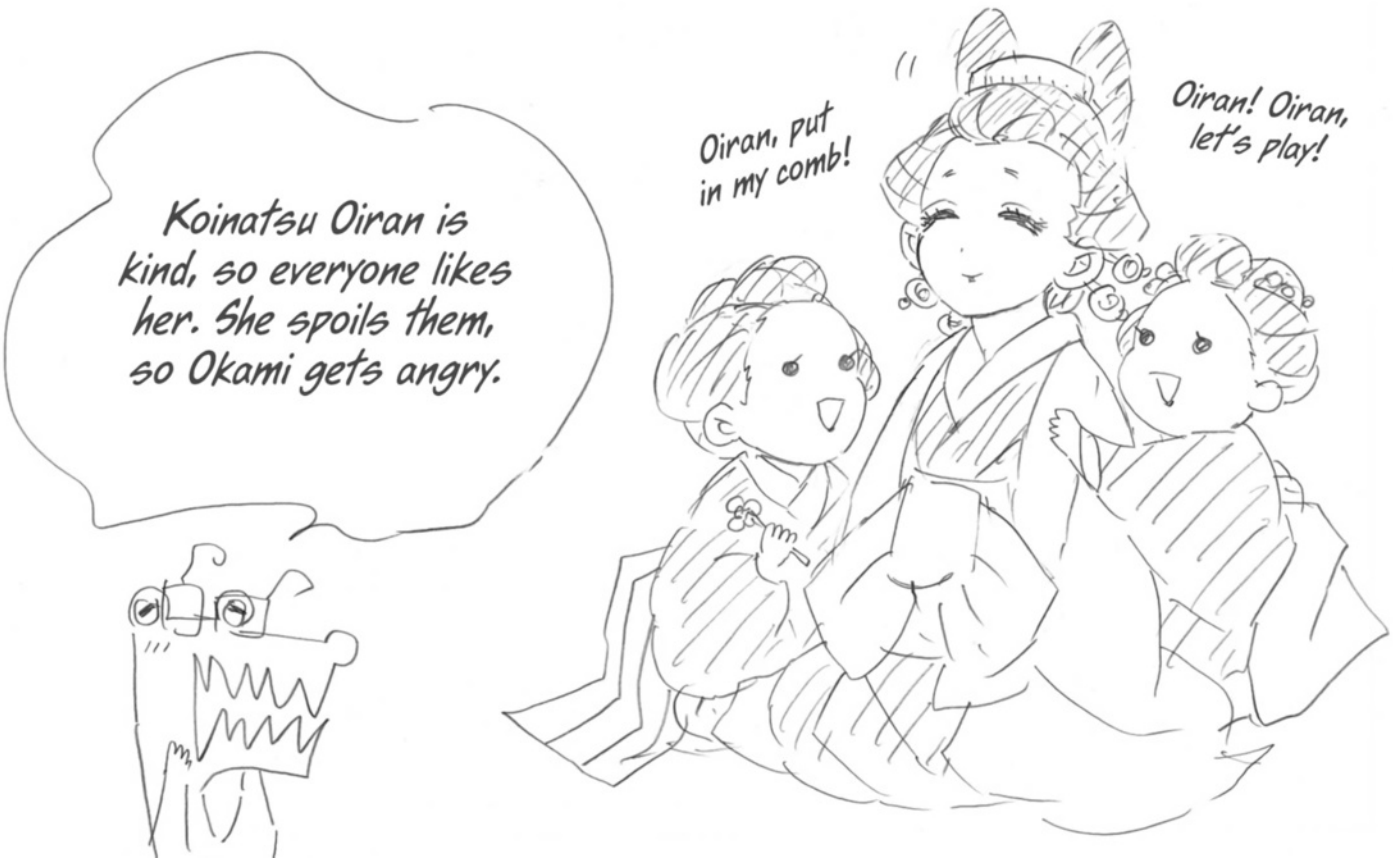
MWA HA HA HA!
TEE HEE

COME, ONE AFTER THE OTHER! I'LL KILL AND EAT THE LOT OF YOU!
IT'S TAKEN A WHILE, BUT THEY'VE FINALLY GONE FOR THE BAIT.

...THIS TOWN HAS A DARK AND MURKY SMELL.

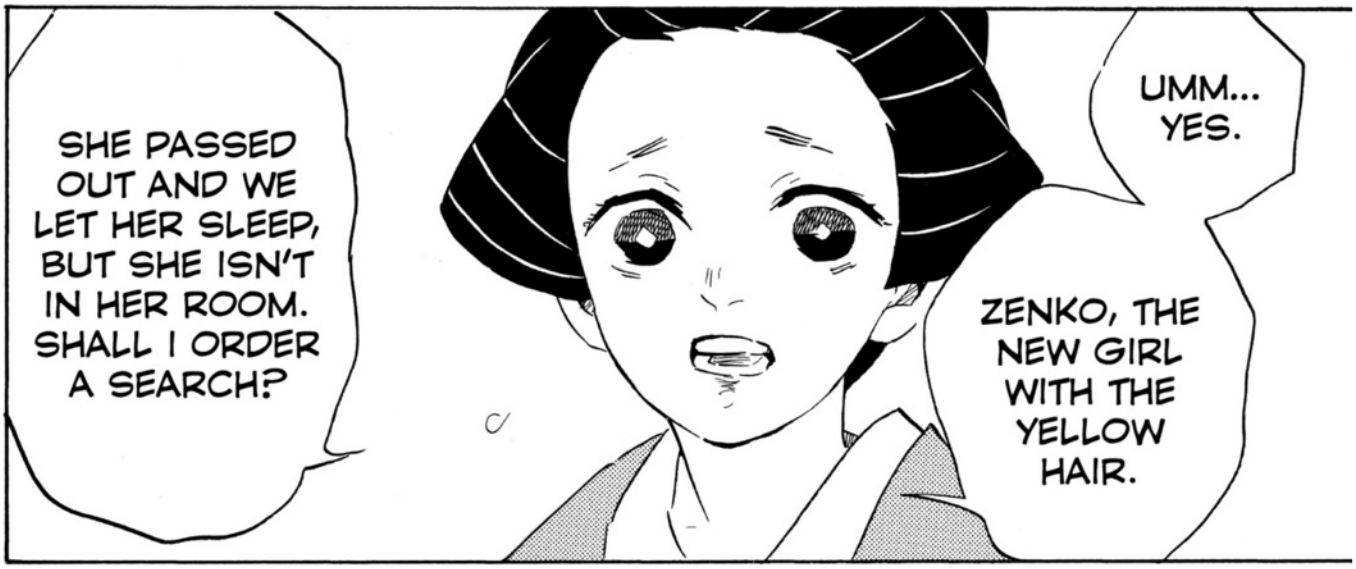


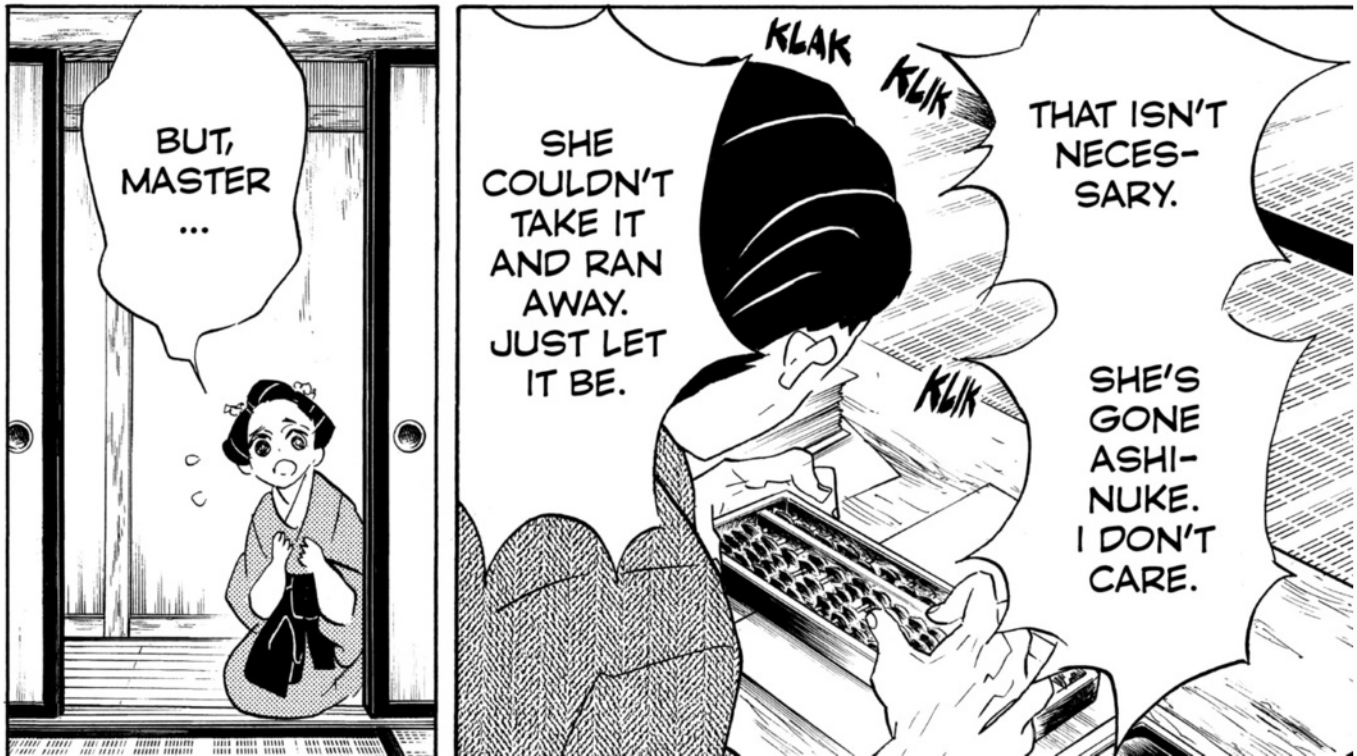
AT NIGHT...


Koinatsu Oiran is kind, so everyone likes her. She spoils them, so Okami gets angry.
Oiran, put in my comb!
Oiran! Oiran, let's play!

CHAPTER 75: VARIOUS FEELINGS

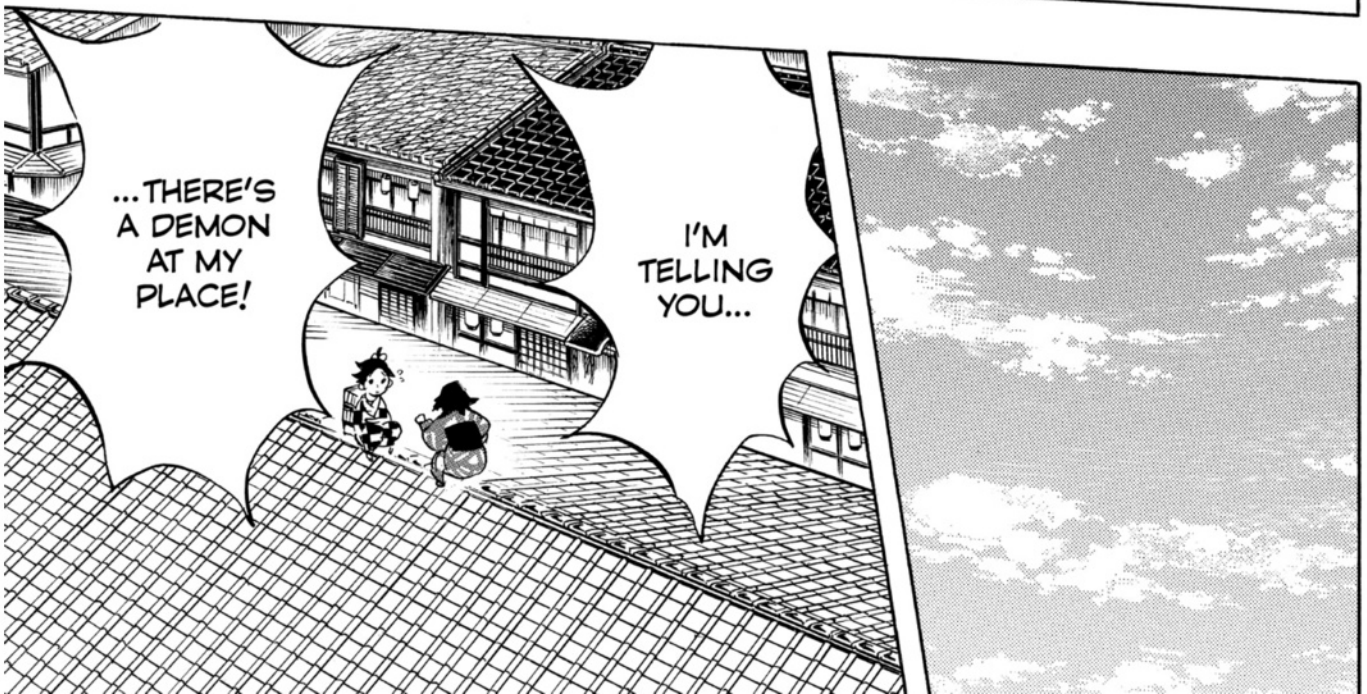
DISAPPEARED?


SHE PASSED OUT AND WE LET HER SLEEP, BUT SHE ISN'T IN HER ROOM. SHALL I ORDER A SEARCH?
UMM... YES.
ZENKO, THE NEW GIRL WITH THE YELLOW HAIR.


BUT, MASTER ...
KLAK
KLIK
KLIK
SHE COULDN'T TAKE IT AND RAN AWAY. JUST LET IT BE.
THAT ISN'T NECES-SARY.
SHE'S GONE ASHI-NUKE. I DON'T CARE.

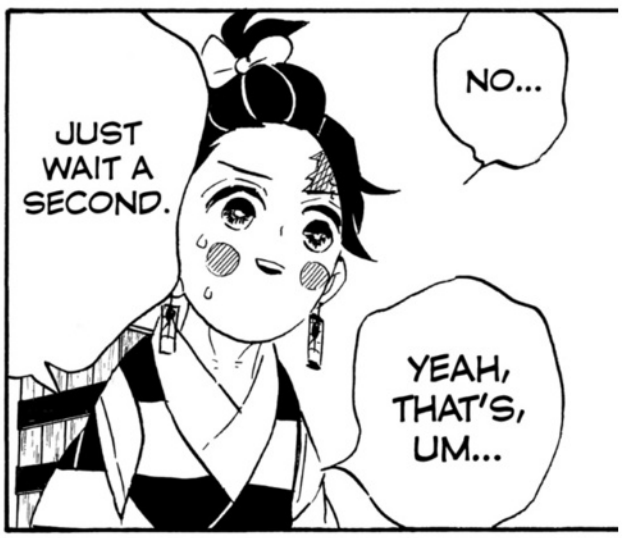
NEVER MENTION ZENKO AGAIN! TELL EVERYONE ELSE THE SAME!
KWSH
KYAH!
SHUT UP! GET OUT!
AACK

THAT'S WHY ZENKO... AND OMITSU...
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WHO GETS ON WARABIHIME OIRAN'S NERVES?


...THERE'S A DEMON AT MY PLACE!
I'M TELLING YOU...

GNAT
IT'S A THING LIKE THIS! LIKE THIS!

KRK
LIKE THIS! DO YOU UNDER-STAND *THIS*?!


NO...
JUST WAIT A SECOND.
YEAH, THAT'S, UM...

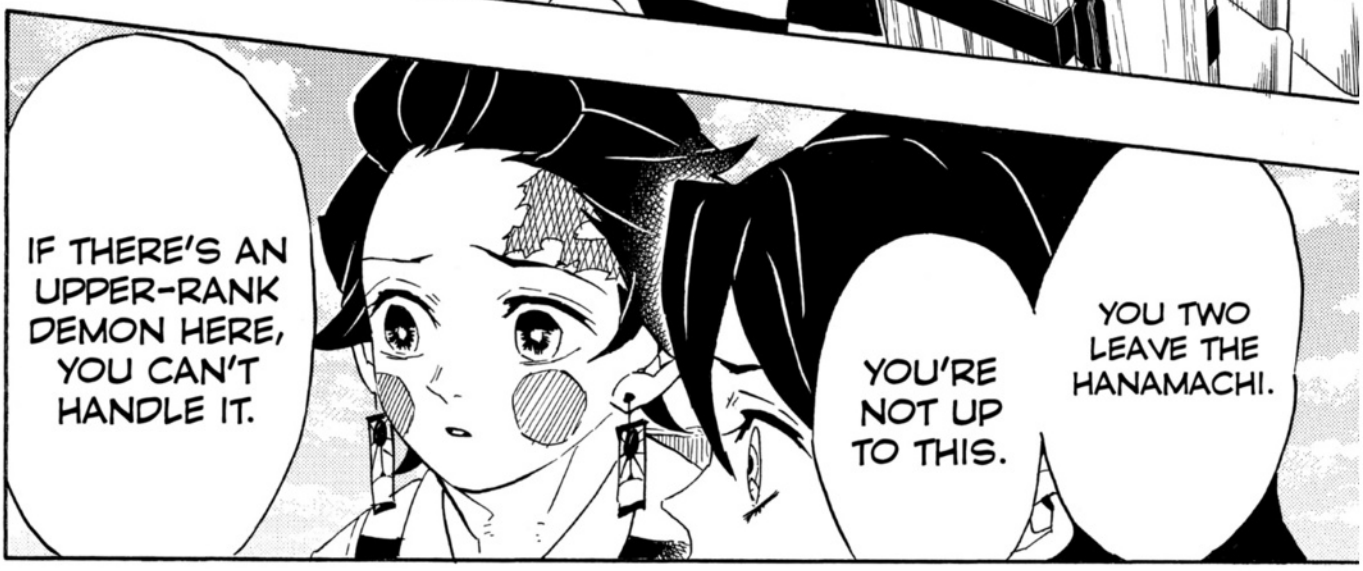
LOOK, UZUI AND ZENITSU WILL BE HERE SOON FOR OUR REPORTS, SO...
LIKE THIS! I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE LIKE!
YEAH, OKAY...

!!
ZENITSU ISN'T COMING.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ZENITSU ISN'T COMING?
HE DOESN'T MAKE A SOUND. HE DIDN'T EVEN DISTURB THE AIR.
THAT GUY'S GOOD!

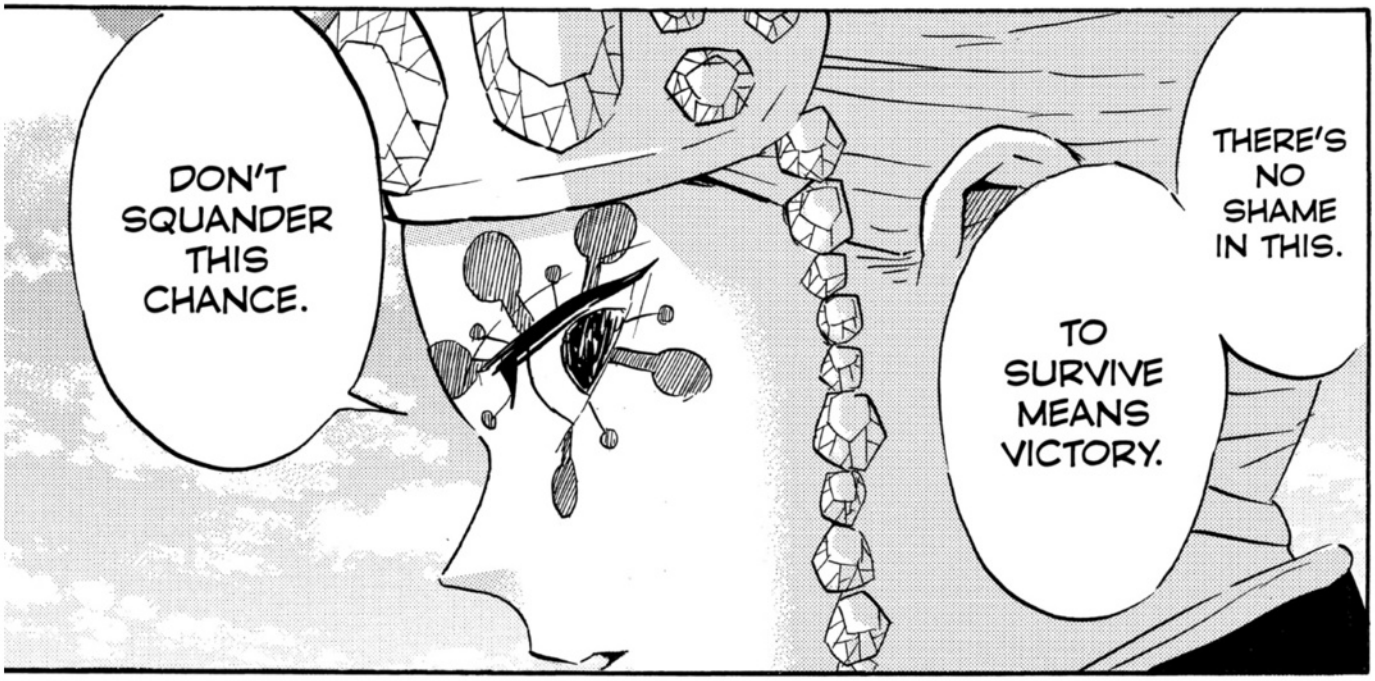
I THINK I'VE PUT YOU GUYS IN REAL DANGER.

I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE LAST NIGHT.
I WANTED TO HELP MY WIVES, BUT THAT LED ME TO MAKE SOME BAD CHOICES.
NOW ZENITSU IS MISSING.


IF THERE'S AN UPPER-RANK DEMON HERE, YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT.
YOU'RE NOT UP TO THIS.
YOU TWO LEAVE THE HANAMACHI.

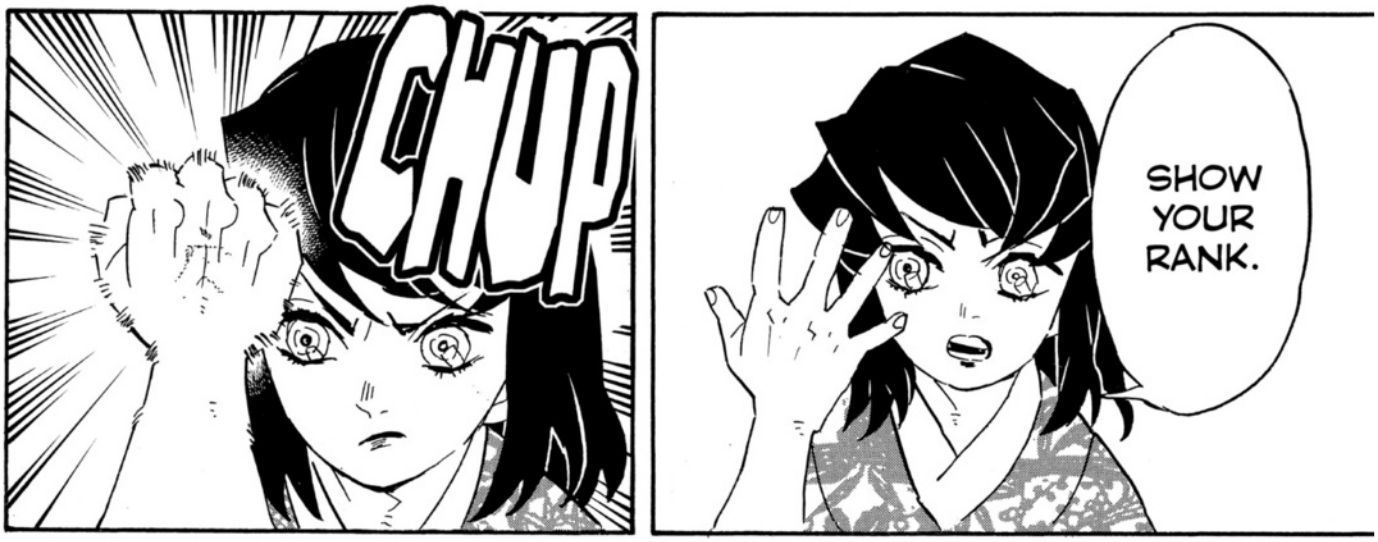
FROM NOW ON, I'LL OPERATE ALONE.
WHEN SOMEONE DISAPPEARS, WE MUST COUNT THEM AS DEAD.

NO, UZUI!
WE—!

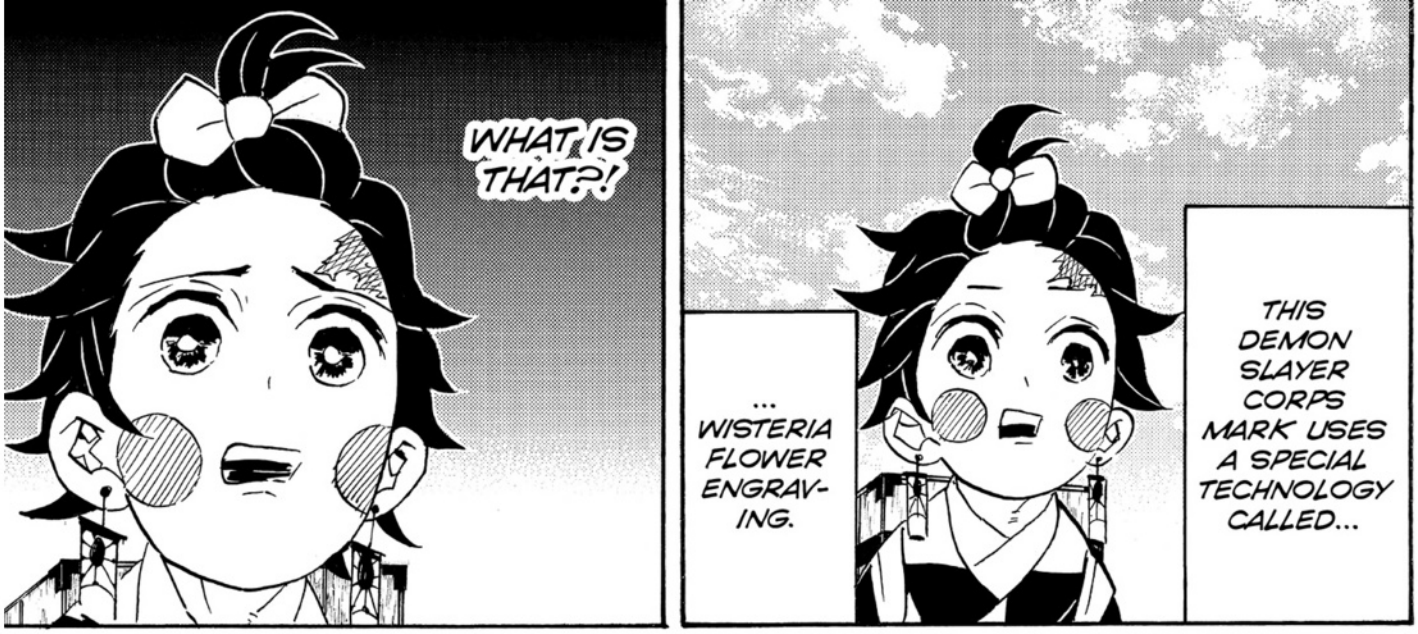

THERE'S NO SHAME IN THIS.
TO SURVIVE MEANS VICTORY.
DON'T SQUANDER THIS CHANCE.

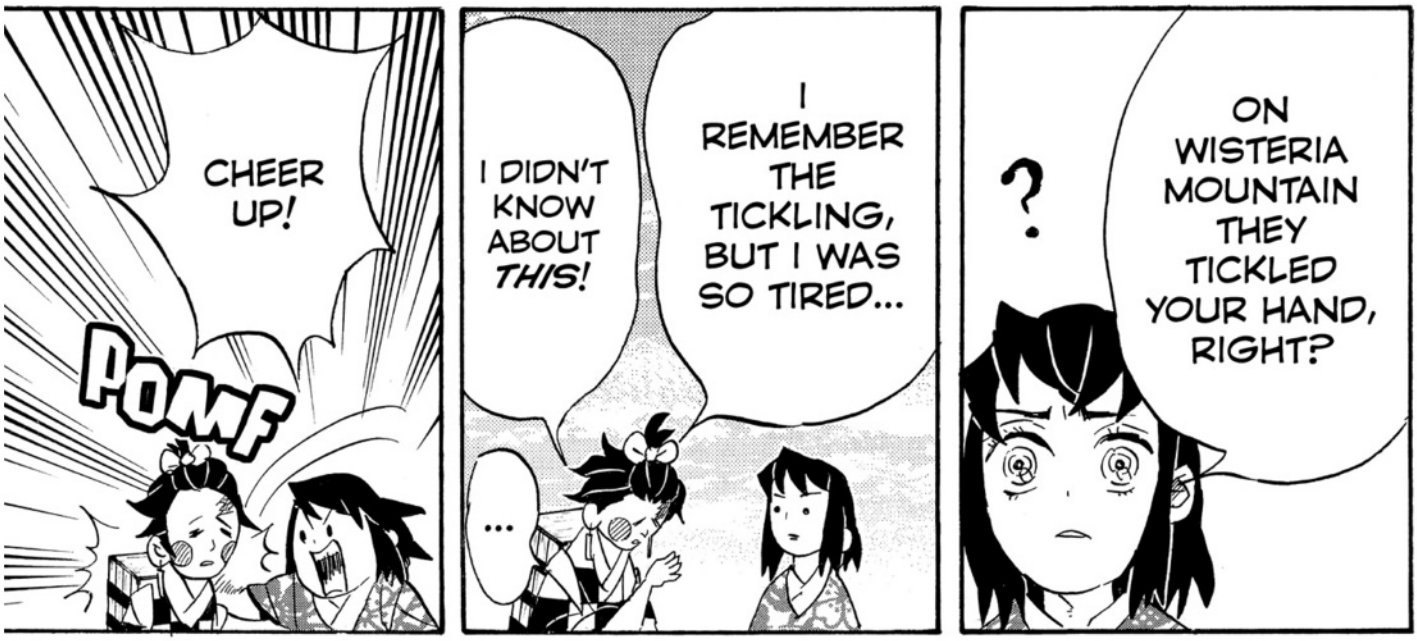
...
...
WAIT!
VVVSH
MAYBE HE DIDN'T TRUST US BECAUSE WE'RE THE LOWEST RANK?

DEMON SLAYER CORPS RANKS
鬼殺隊階級
KINOE
甲
KINOTO
乙
HINOE
丙
HINOTO
丁
TSUCHI-NOE
戊
TSUCHI-NOTO
己
KANOE
庚
They're here
KANOTO
辛
MIZUNOE
壬
They were here
癸
MIZU-NOTO
HUH?
WE'RE FOUR UP FROM THE BOTTOM. WE'VE GAINED RANKS.
WE'RE KANOE NOW!


CHUP
SHOW YOUR RANK.

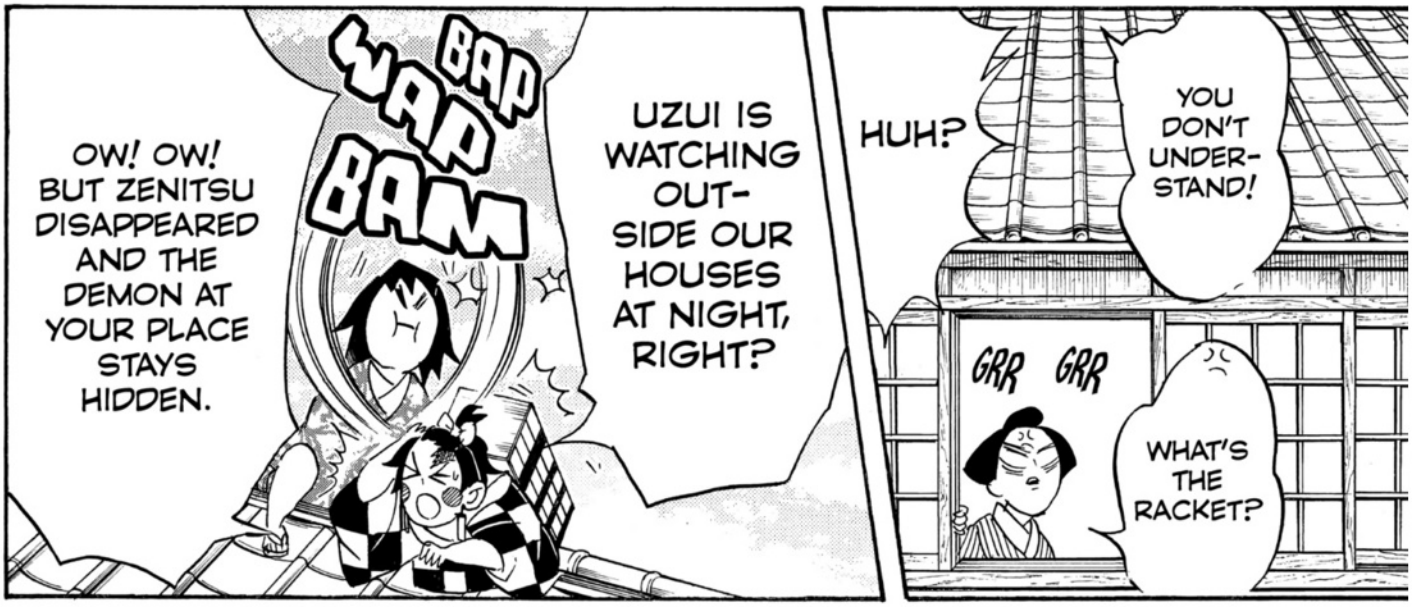
SAYING A PASSWORD AND FLEXING CAUSES THEIR CURRENT RANK TO APPEAR.
庚
FWOO


WHAT IS THAT?!
... WISTERIA FLOWER ENGRAV-ING.
THIS DEMON SLAYER CORPS MARK USES A SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY CALLED...


CHEER UP!
POMF
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS!
I REMEMBER THE TICKLING, BUT I WAS SO TIRED...
...
?
ON WISTERIA MOUNTAIN THEY TICKLED YOUR HAND, RIGHT?

TODAY I'M GONNA FINISH INVESTIGAT-ING HOUSE TOKITO.
WHY ?!
AS SOON AS NIGHT FALLS, I'LL MEET YOU AT HOUSE OGIMOTO.
WAIT UNTIL THEN. IT'S DANGER-OUS TO ACT ALONE.
RIGHT. SORRY. THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS.

SKWISH
I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S A DEMON AT MY PLACE! COME NOW!
YOU REALLY ARE STUPID!

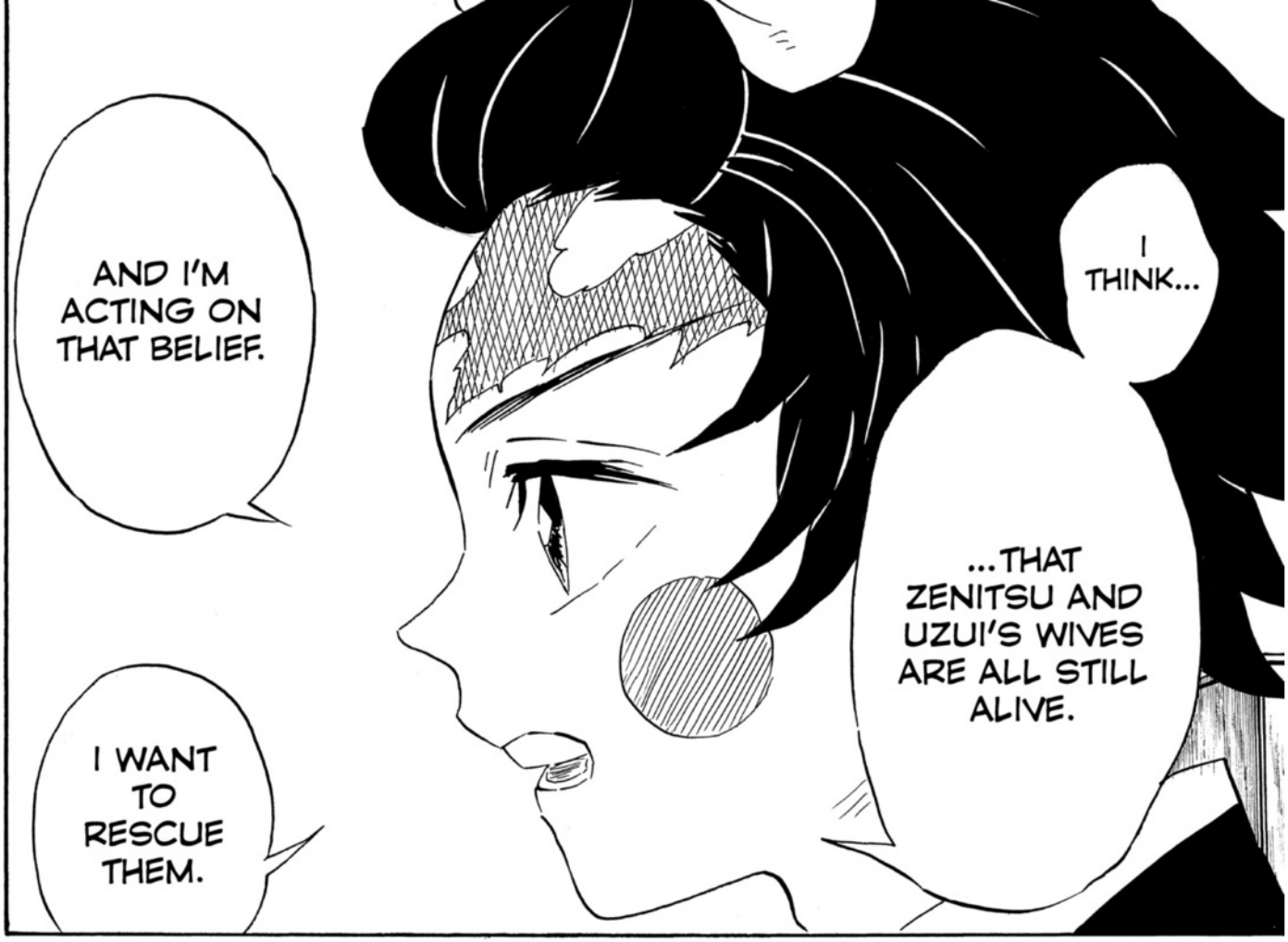

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
HUH?
GRR GRR
WHAT'S THE RACKET?
UZUI IS WATCHING OUT-SIDE OUR HOUSES AT NIGHT, RIGHT?
BAP WAP BAM
OW! OW! BUT ZENITSU DISAPPEARED AND THE DEMON AT YOUR PLACE STAYS HIDDEN.

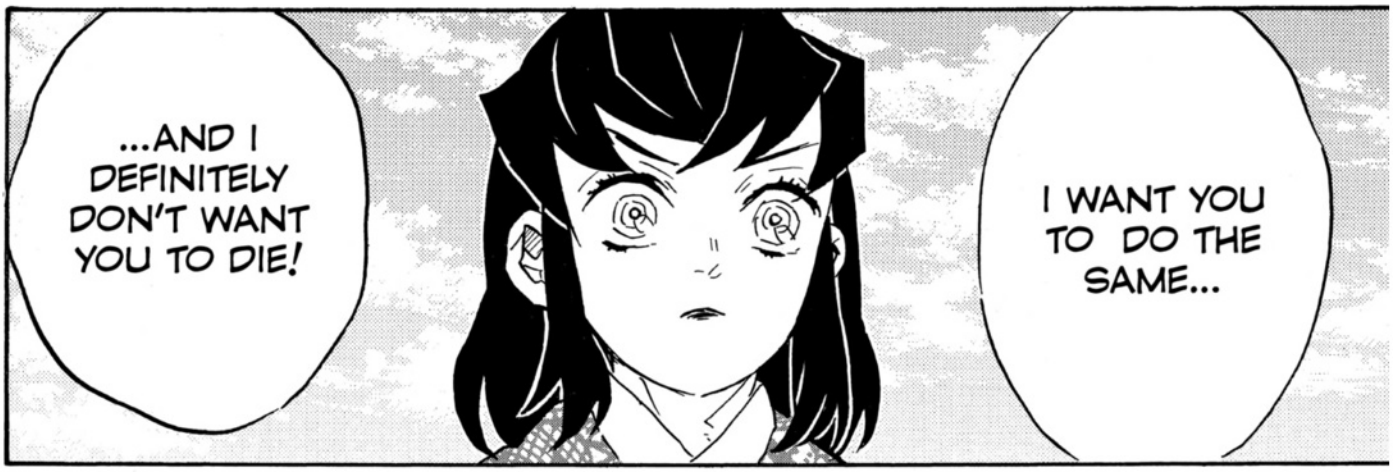
OUCH... HEY...
BAP
WAM
STOP HITTING ME!
THERE MUST BE A SECRET PASSAGE INSIDE THE BUILDING!

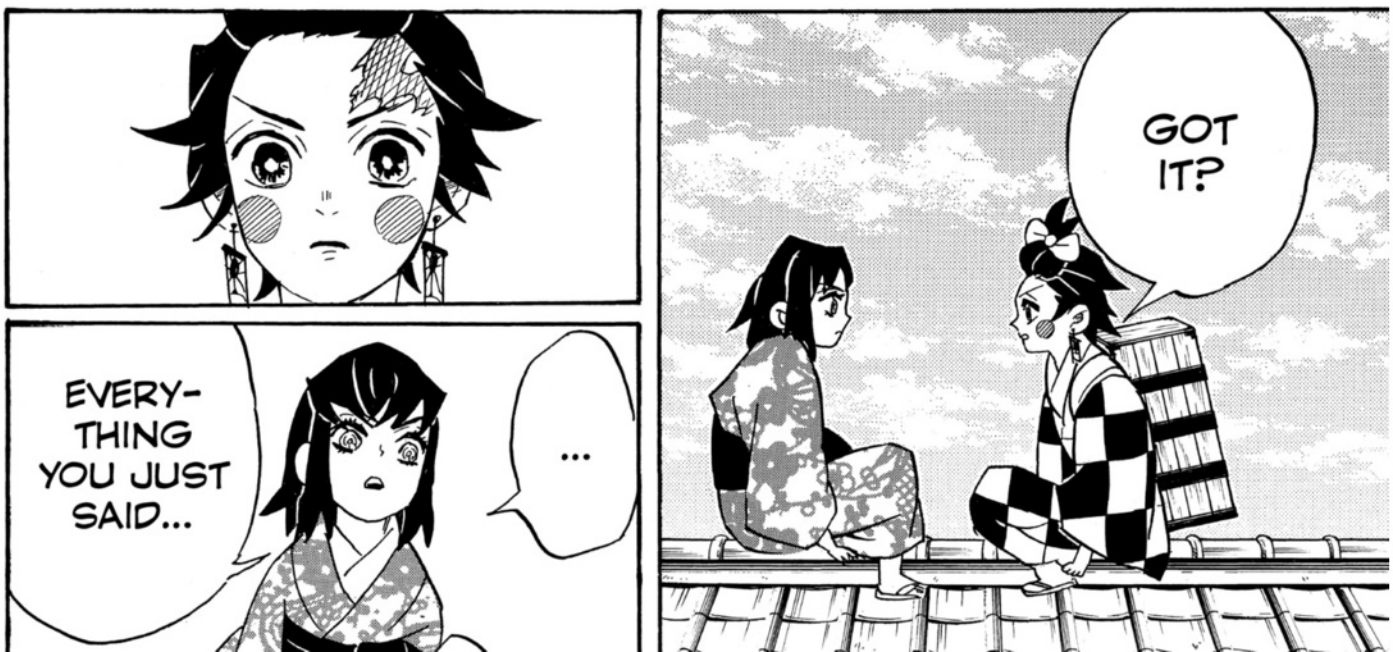
PASSAGE ?
YEAH.
THE DEMON ISN'T COMING AND GOING...
...SO IT MIGHT BE SOMEONE WORKING THERE.

IF THE DEMON IS WORKING AT THE HOUSE...
...IT MUST BE GOOD AT PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN...
...AND MUST BE CAREFUL TO KILL PEOPLE SO THAT NO ONE NOTICES.

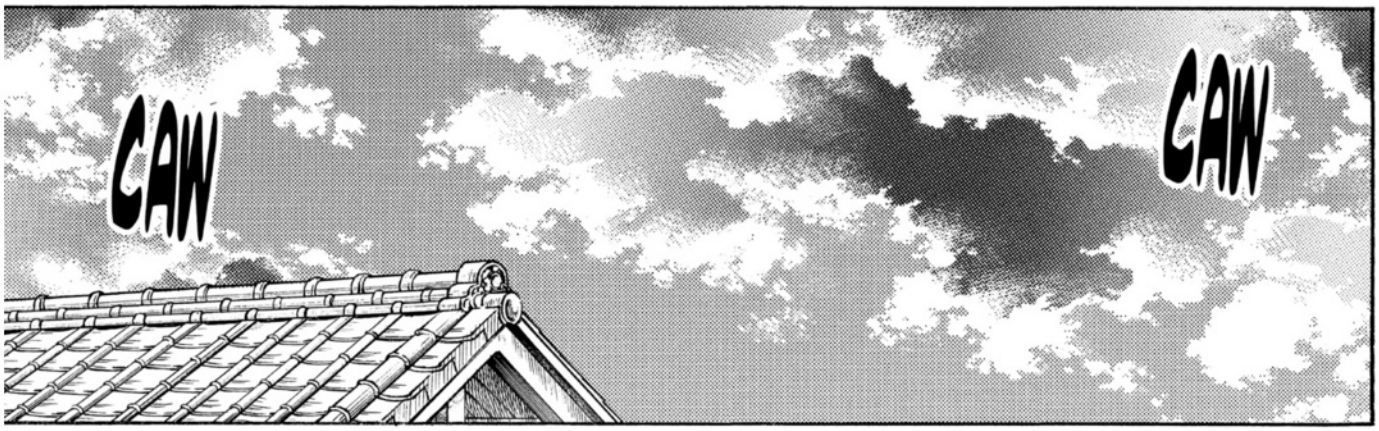
OH YEAH... BLOOD-STAINS DON'T COME OUT EASILY.
HIDING A MURDER IS HARD WORK.
THIS IS A NIGHT TOWN. THAT'S VERY CONVENIENT FOR DEMONS, BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY *INCONVENIENT* THINGS.
IF YOU TRY TO GET THINGS DONE DURING THE DAY, PEOPLE GET SUSPICIOUS.


I THINK...
...THAT ZENITSU AND UZUI'S WIVES ARE ALL STILL ALIVE.
AND I'M ACTING ON THAT BELIEF.
I WANT TO RESCUE THEM.

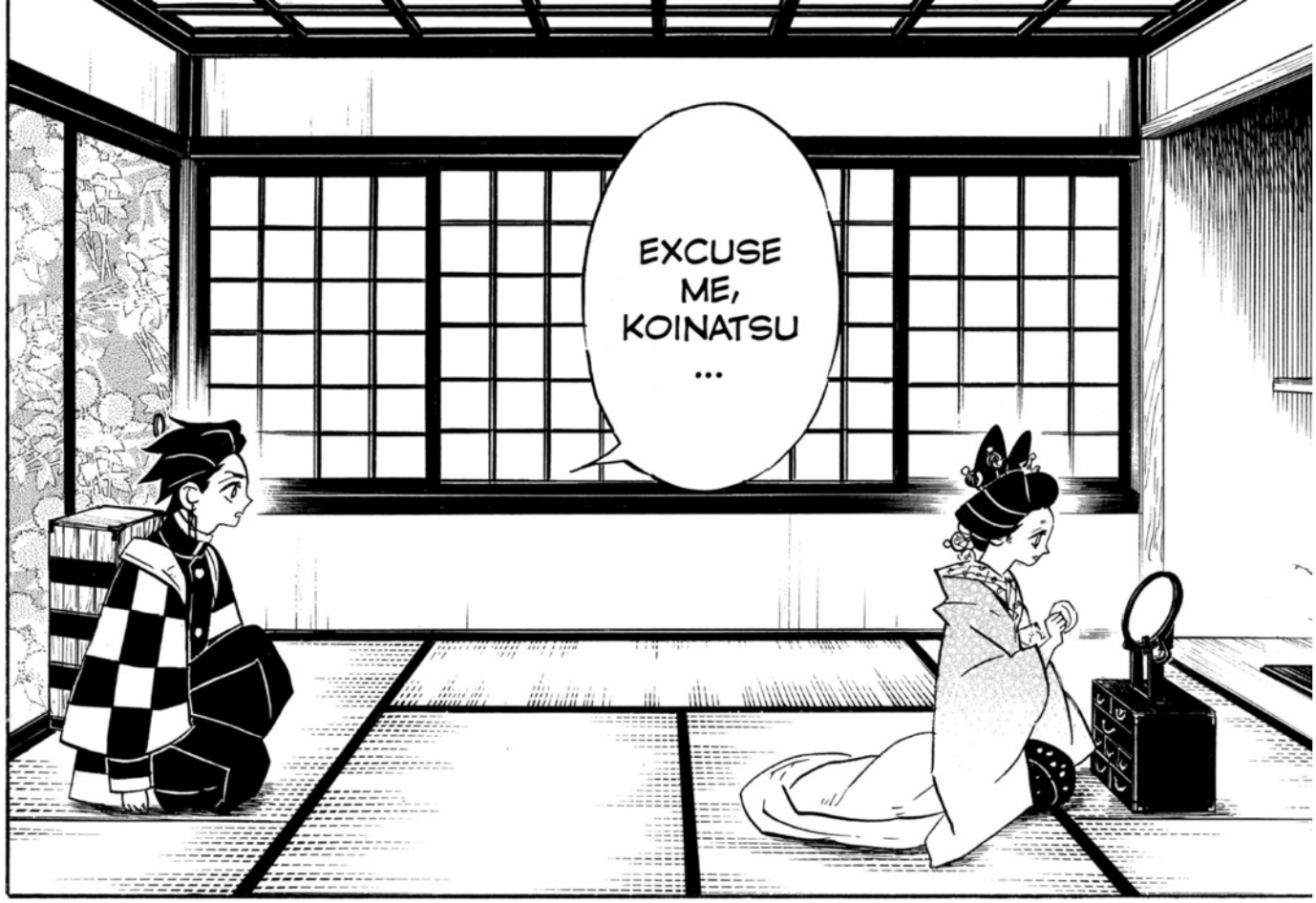

I WANT YOU TO DO THE SAME...
...AND I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE!


GOT IT?
...
EVERY-THING YOU JUST SAID...

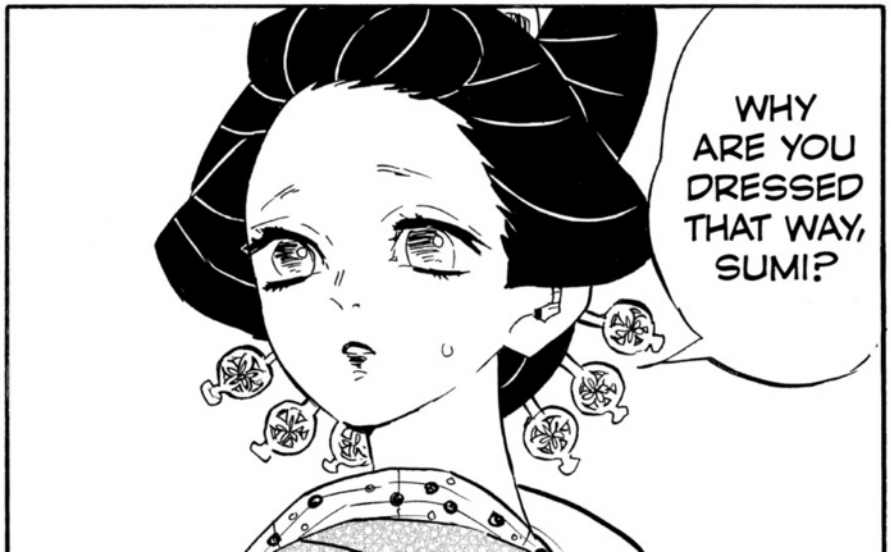
I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY THE SAME THING!


CAW
CAW

SHF
TMP TMP
Oh my!
HEE HEE!
OKAY!
I'M READY. NOW YOU CAN GO EAT.
OKAY!

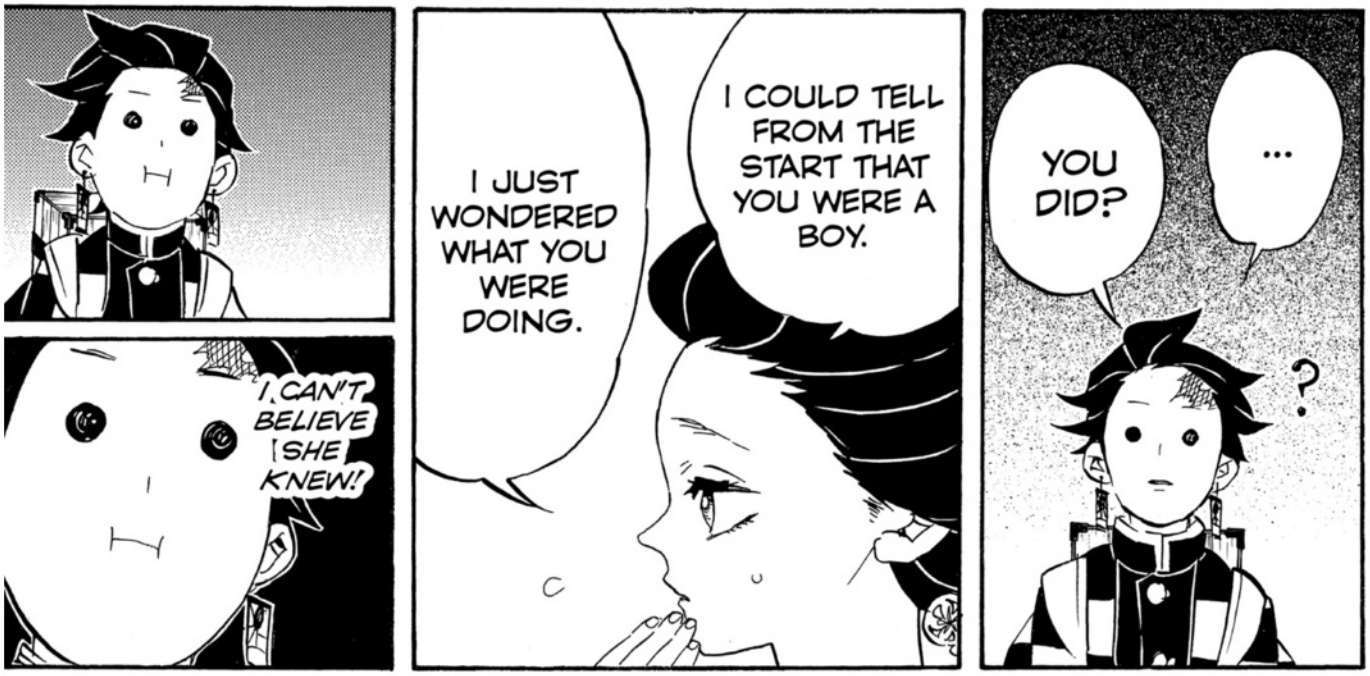

EXCUSE ME, KOINATSU ...

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE IMPROPRIETY ...
...BUT I AM LEAVING HOUSE TOKITO.
WOULD YOU PLEASE PASS ON TO MASTER AND THE OTHERS THIS PAYMENT FOR MEALS WHILE I WAS IN THEIR CARE?

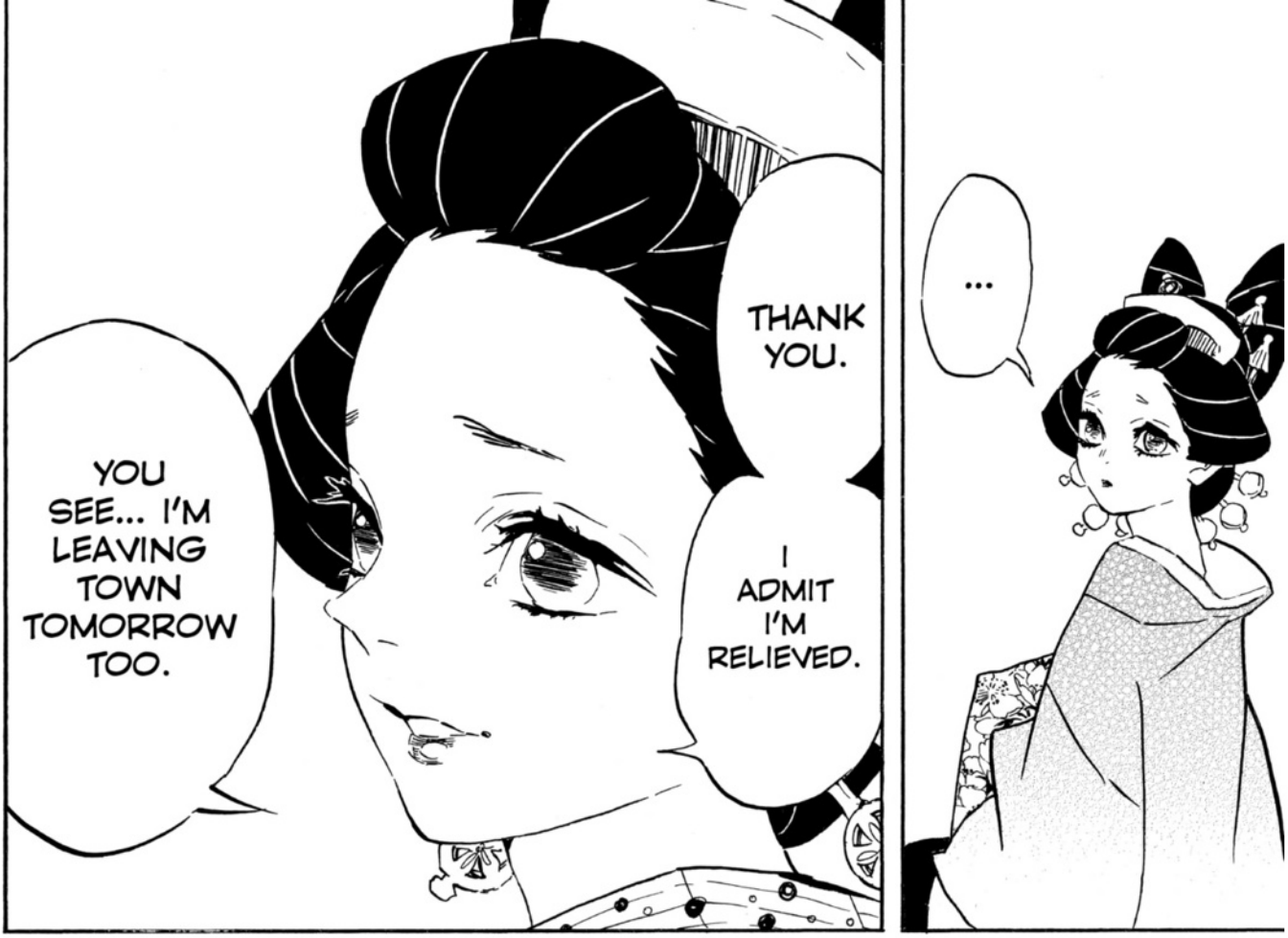

WHY ARE YOU DRESSED THAT WAY, SUMI?

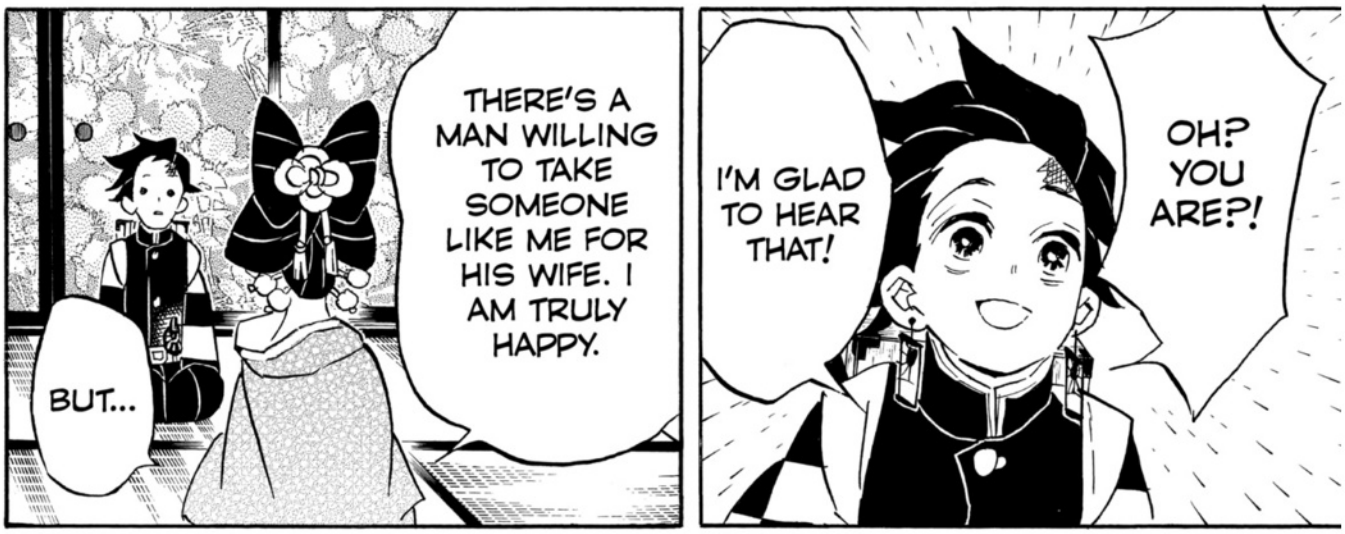
SH

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DECEPTION, BUT THOUGH I DRESSED LIKE A GIRL, I'M REALLY A BOY.
YES ...
...I KNEW THAT.
WITH THAT BODY AND VOICE OF YOURS...
...I KNEW.


...
YOU DID?
?
I COULD TELL FROM THE START THAT YOU WERE A BOY.
I JUST WONDERED WHAT YOU WERE DOING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE KNEW!

YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF MISSION, RIGHT?
IS IT TRUE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SUMA?
YES! OF COURSE!
THAT'S ALL TRUE!
AND I STILL HOPE TO SAVE THOSE WHO HAVE DISAP-PEARED!


...
THANK YOU.
I ADMIT I'M RELIEVED.
YOU SEE... I'M LEAVING TOWN TOMORROW TOO.


OH? YOU ARE?!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT!
THERE'S A MAN WILLING TO TAKE SOMEONE LIKE ME FOR HIS WIFE. I AM TRULY HAPPY.
BUT...

...I'M DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT EVERYONE I'LL LEAVE BEHIND.
I WAS AFRAID I'D NEVER KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERIES HERE IN HOUSE TOKITO.

I GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE...
...SUMI.
PLEASE, KEEP SMILING.
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL. PLEASE, DON'T WORRY.
BOW
DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?

NOT QUITE.
YOU'LL ONLY BE HERE FOR ONE MORE NIGHT, RIGHT, KOINATSU?
THEN BEFORE I FORGET...
...I MUST DEVOUR YOU NOW!

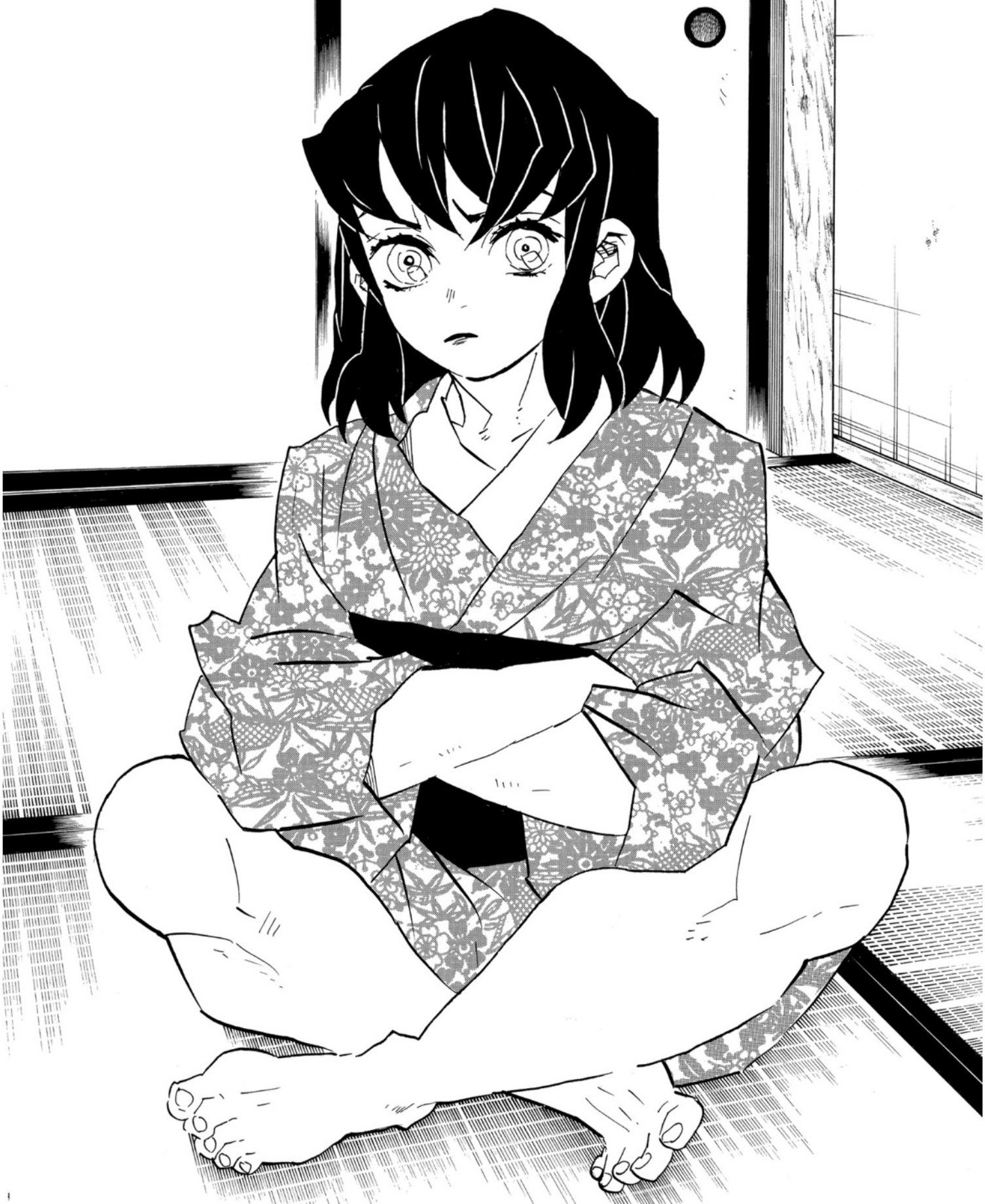
A FAINT SWEET SMELL...
WAIT... WHAT'S THAT?

I NEED TO HURRY TO INO-SUKE'S—
UH-OH... THE SUN HAS ALMOST SET!
PWIK

THAT'S THE SCENT OF A DEMON! AND IT'S CLOSE!
A DEMON!

The girls are worried about Zenko.

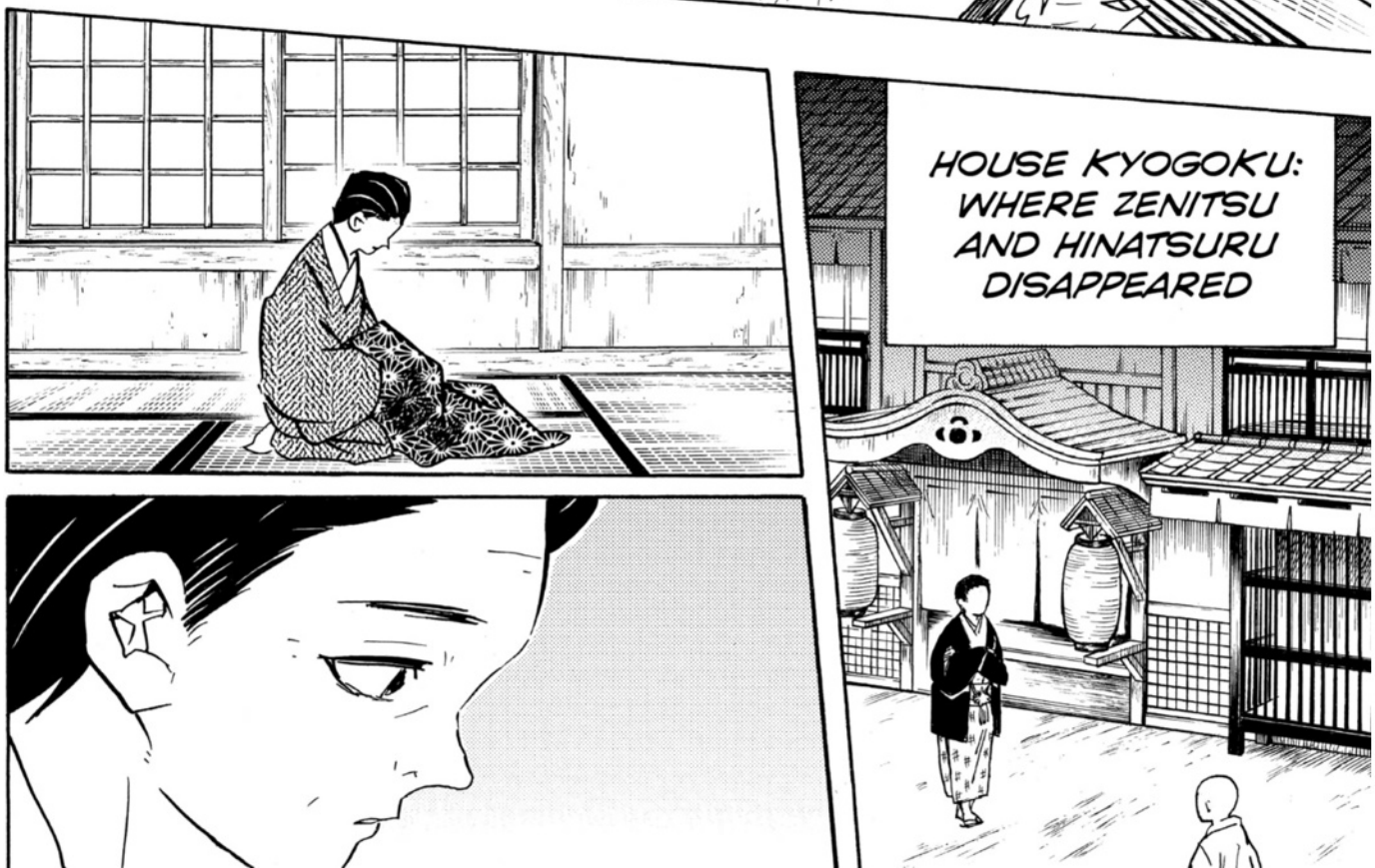
CHAPTER 76: IN VARIOUS PLACES



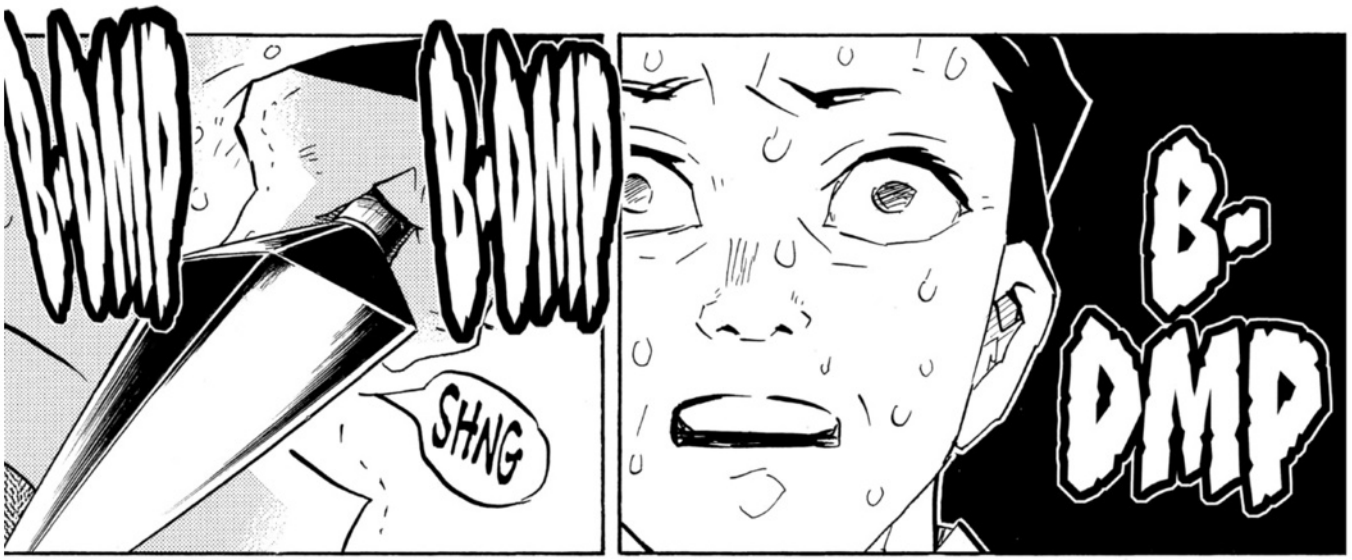
HOUSE OGIMOTO: INOSUKE
HE'S LATE!
I'M DONE WAITING!
I'LL SETTLE THINGS BY MYSELF!
THE SUN IS SETTING BUT HE HASN'T COME! THAT FOOL SOICHIRO!
DOSH
BIZOZ
DAAAH!
HWUP

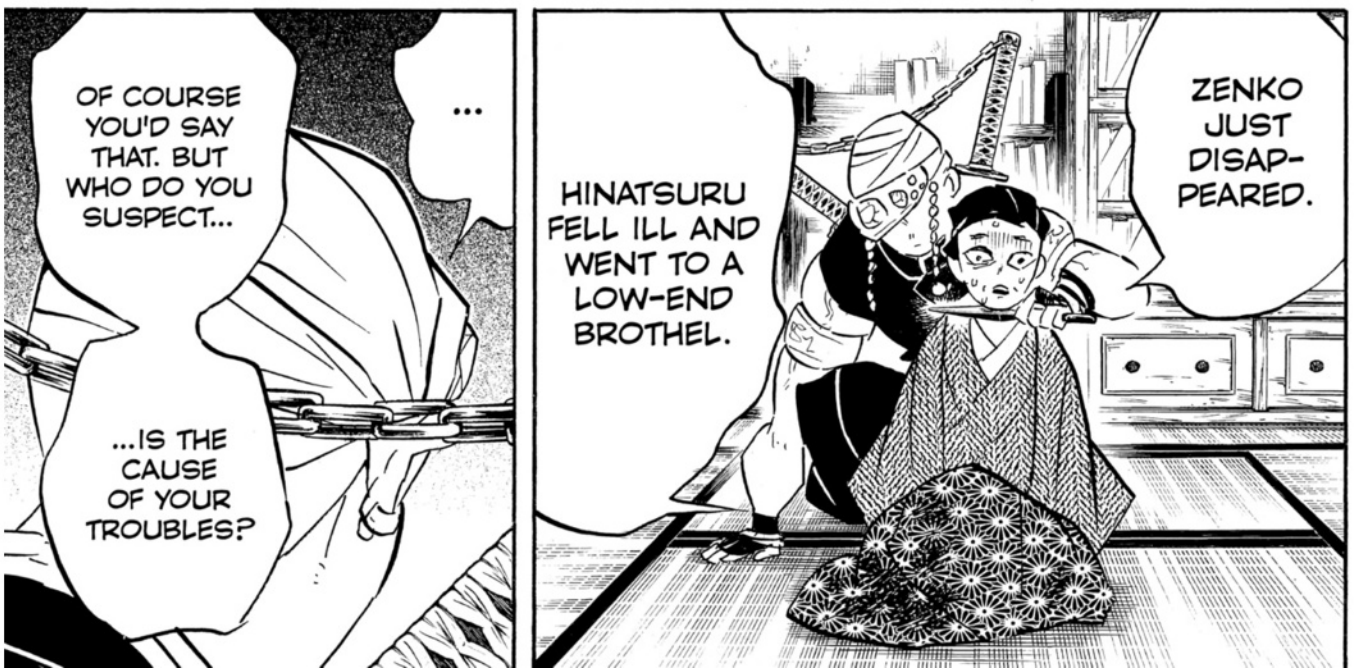
MICE! BRING ME MY SWORDS!
THESE ARE TENGEN'S SERVANTS CALLED NINJU. THEY'RE HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND HAVE SPECIAL TRAINING.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE EXTREMELY STRONG.
FLEX FLEX
ONE CAN LIFT A SWORD BY ITSELF.
TMP
FWAP

I'M GOIN' DEMON SLAYIN'!
HEADLONG RUSH!

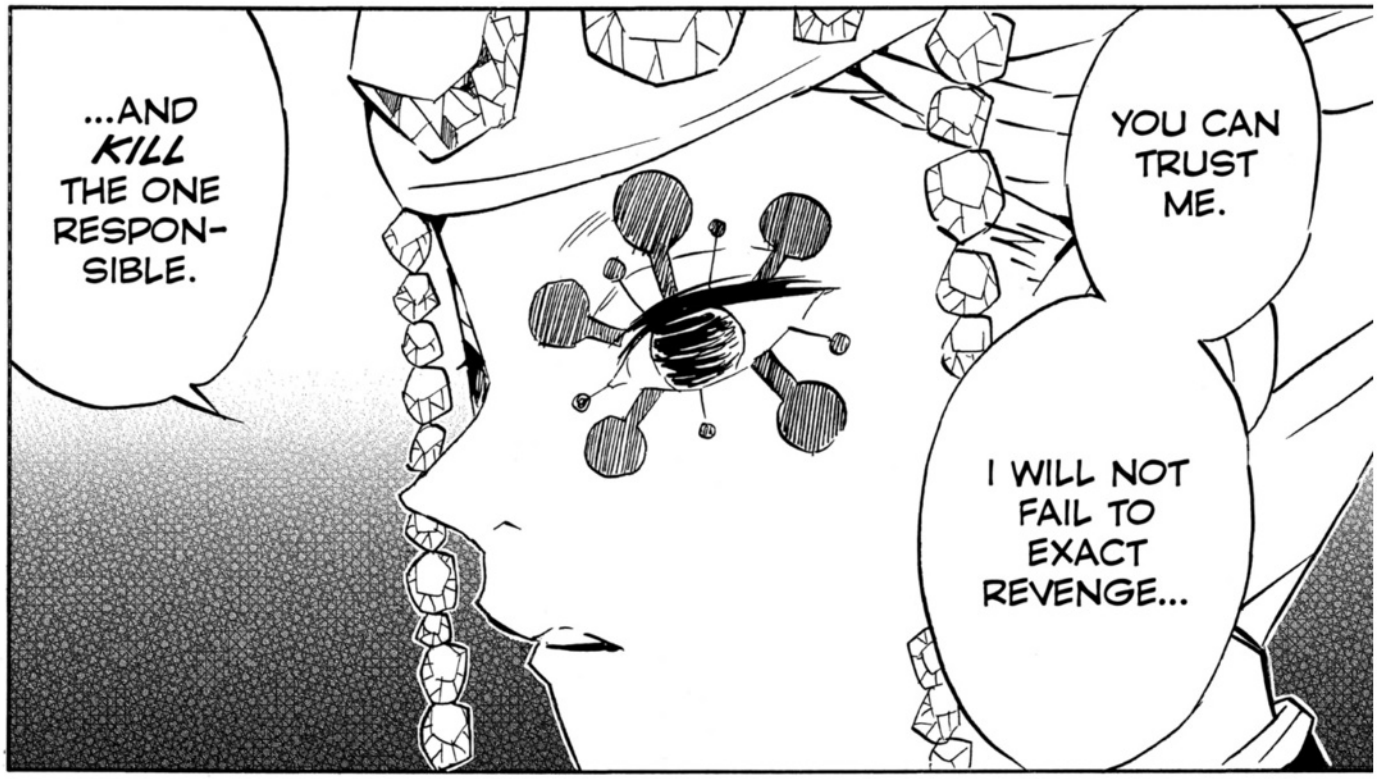

HOUSE KYOGOKU: WHERE ZENITSU AND HINATSURU DISAPPEARED

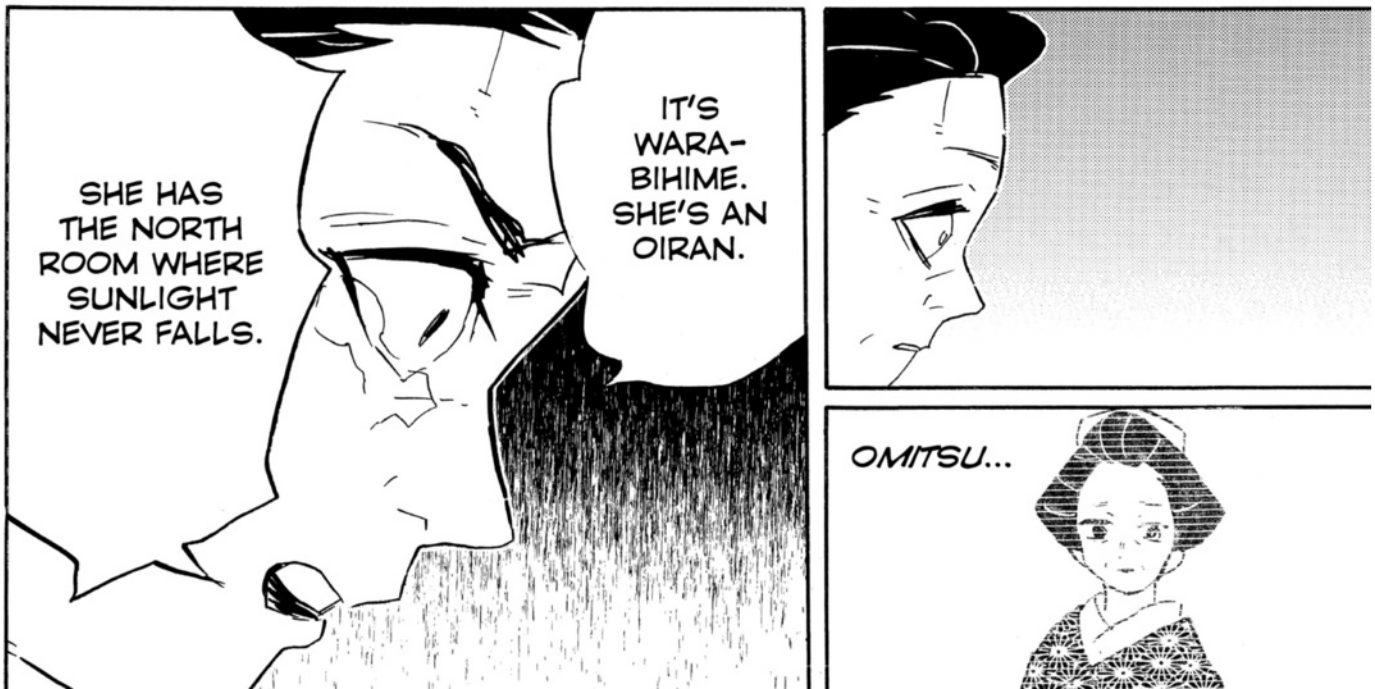
I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ZENKO AND HINATSURU?
ANSWER QUICKLY.

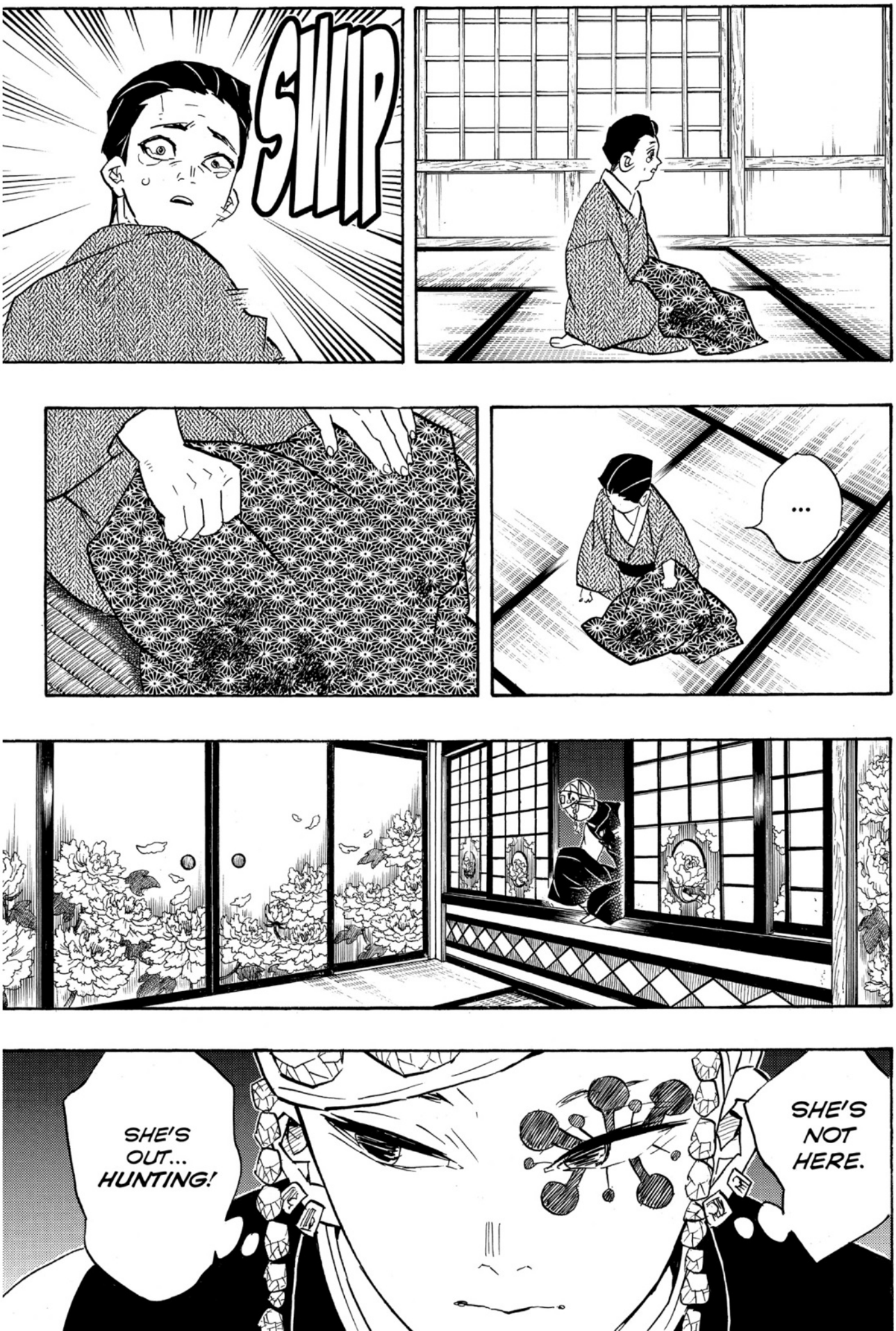

B-DMP
B-DMP
SHNG
B-DMP


...
OF COURSE YOU'D SAY THAT. BUT WHO DO YOU SUSPECT...
...IS THE CAUSE OF YOUR TROUBLES?
HINATSURU FELL ILL AND WENT TO A LOW-END BROTHEL.
ZENKO JUST DISAP-PEARED.

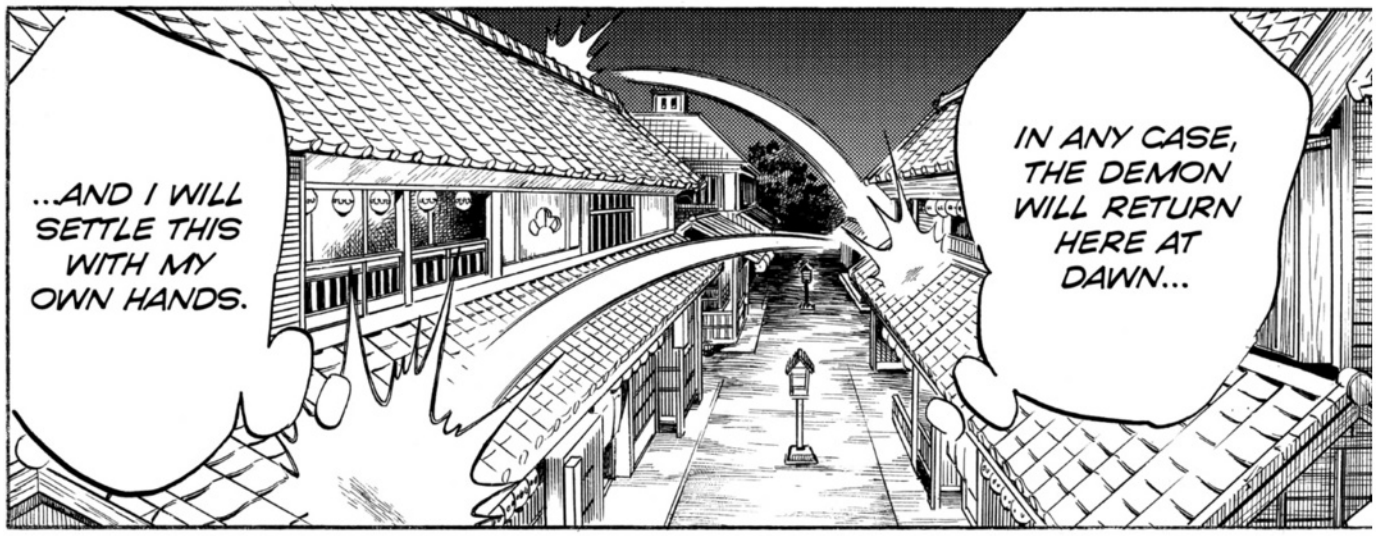
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF

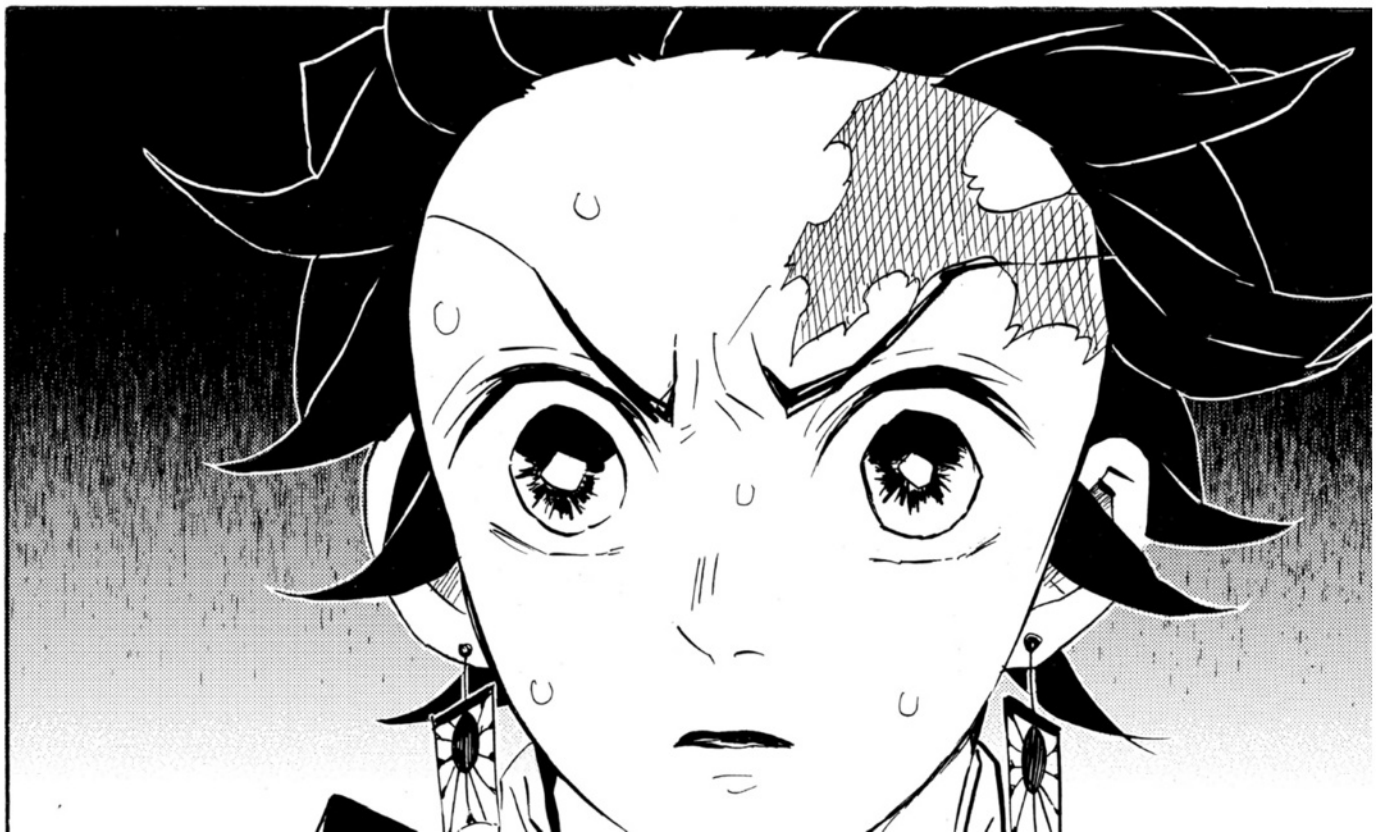

...AND KILL THE ONE RESPON-SIBLE.
YOU CAN TRUST ME.
I WILL NOT FAIL TO EXACT REVENGE...

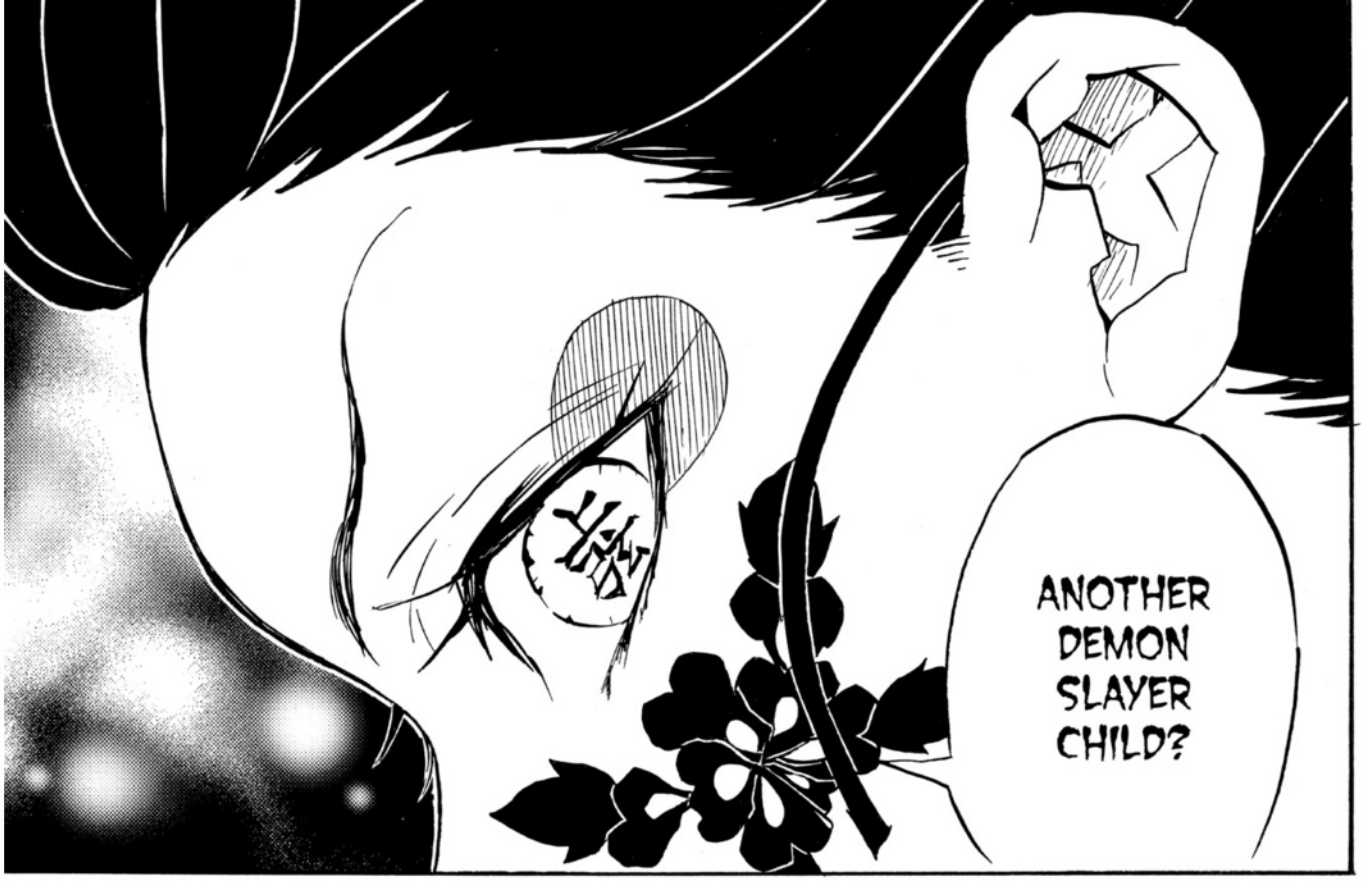

SHE HAS THE NORTH ROOM WHERE SUNLIGHT NEVER FALLS.
IT'S WARA-BIHIME. SHE'S AN OIRAN.
OMITSU...


SWIP
...
SHE'S OUT... HUNTING!
SHE'S NOT HERE.

I'LL KEEP MY EYES OPEN FOR SIGNS OF A DEMON ON MY WAY TO MEET HINATSURU.
SHE MUST HAVE INFORMATION ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS TOWN... IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE.


IN ANY CASE, THE DEMON WILL RETURN HERE AT DAWN...
...AND I WILL SETTLE THIS WITH MY OWN HANDS.




ANOTHER DEMON SLAYER CHILD?

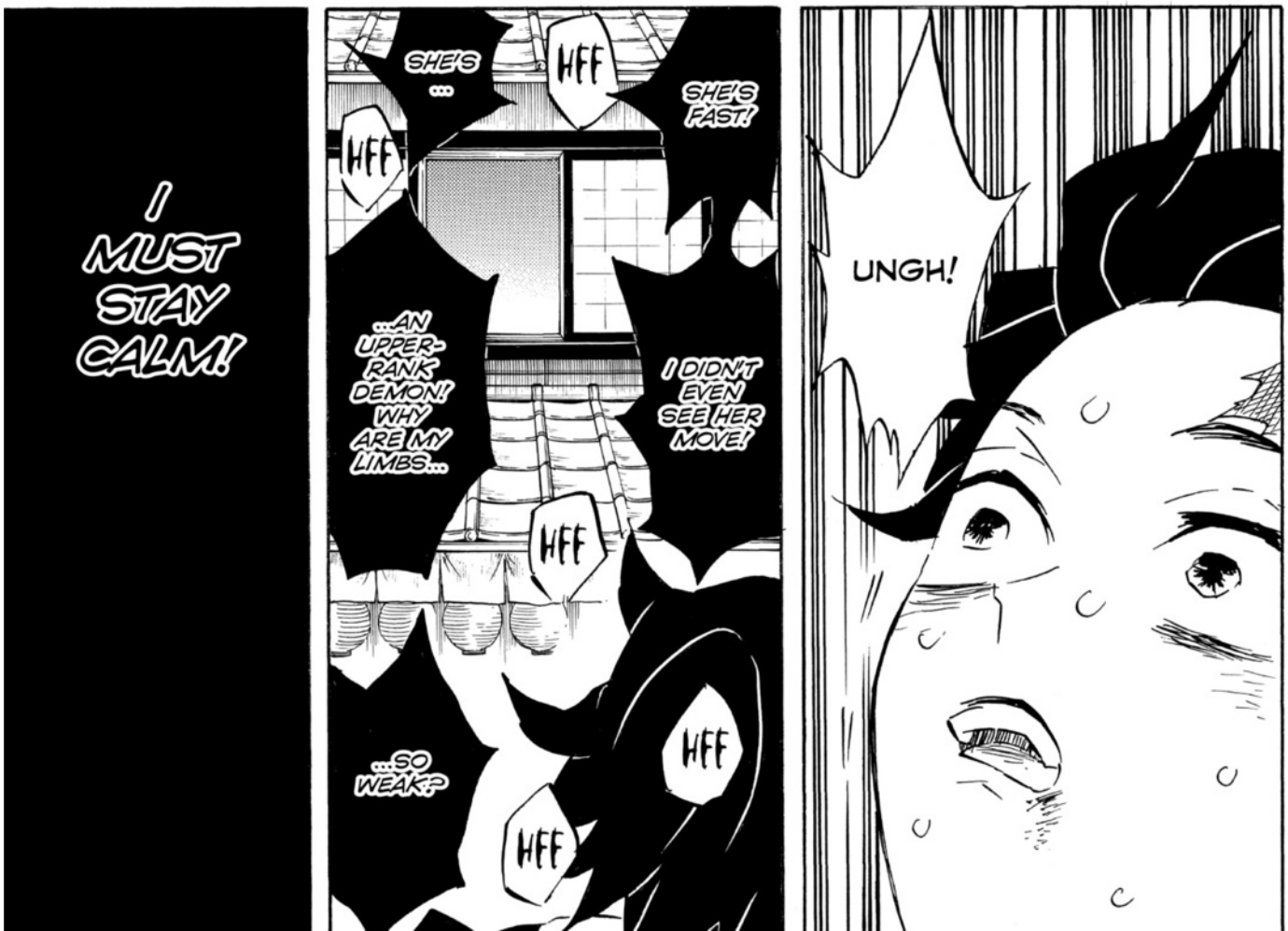
YOU RETURNED, EH?
VERY WELL.

DID A HASHIRA COME TOO? WILL ONE COME SOON? YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO BE A HASHIRA.
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE? THERE'S YOU AND THAT UGLY KID WITH THE YELLOW HAIR...
SWF
SWF
SWF

I HAVE NO USE FOR ANY DEMON SLAYER LESS THAN A HASHIRA, YOU KNOW.
I COULDN'T EAT ANYTHING SO DIRTY AND OLD.

HEY! YOU LET HER GO!
WHAT HAPPENED TO KOINATSU'S BODY?
JUST HER HEAD IS IN THE OBI!
IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN SEVERED, I DON'T SMELL BLOOD!

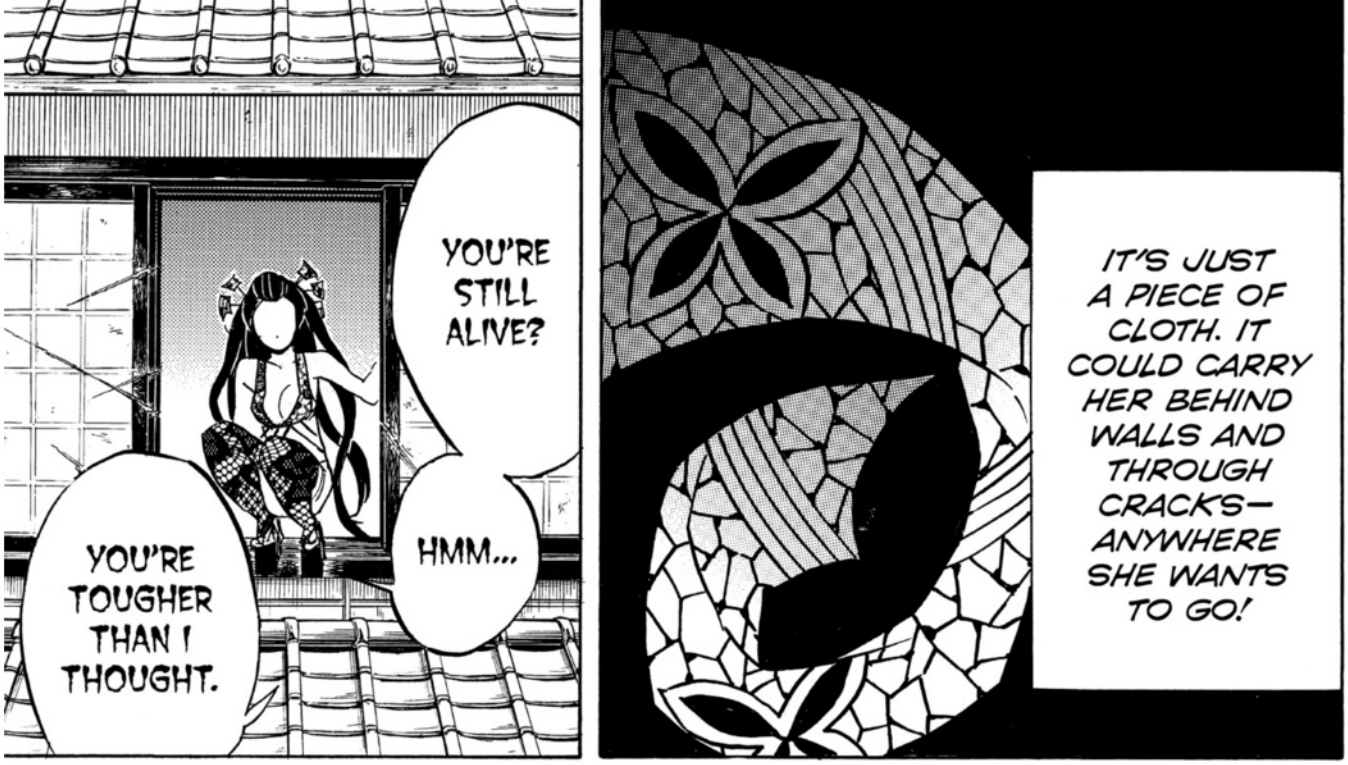
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?!


UNGH!
HFF
SHE'S FAST!
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HER MOVE!
HFF
...AN UPPER-RANK DEMON! WHY ARE MY LIMBS...
HFF
...SO WEAK?
HFF
HFF
I MUST STAY CALM!

I'M NOT PARALYZED... I CAN STILL MOVE.

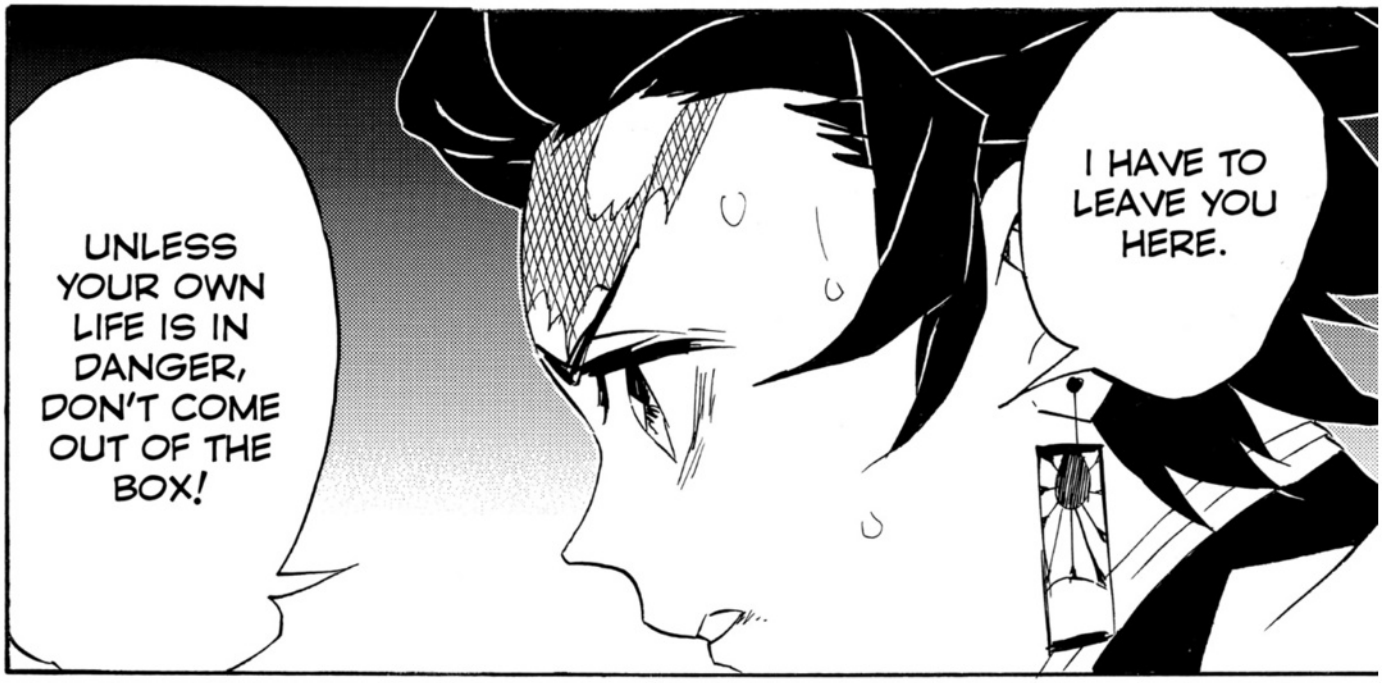
I JUST LANDED HARD ON MY BACK, AND THAT MOMENTARILY STUNNED ME! SHE'S AN UPPER-RANK DEMON!
IT ISN'T FEAR THAT'S SAPPING MY STRENGTH...

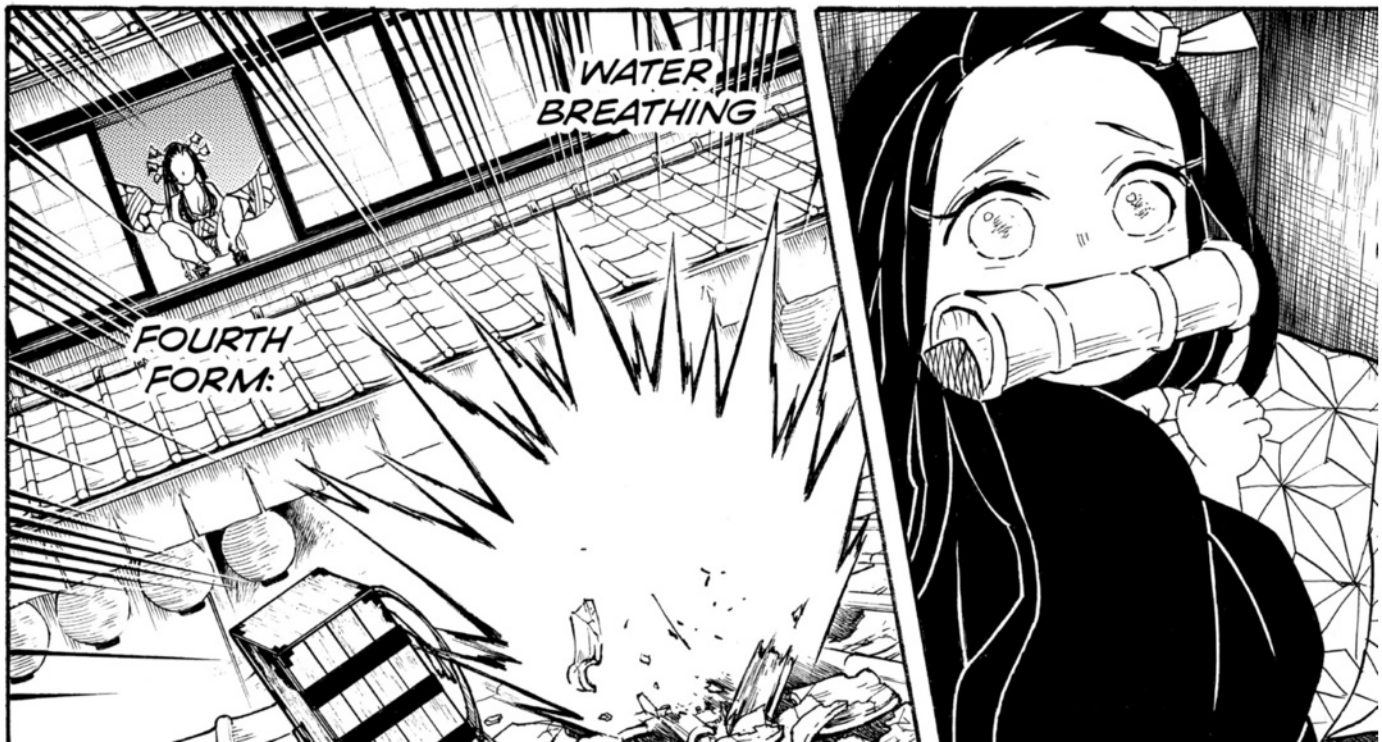
WHAT IF SHE CAN HIDE INSIDE IT TOO? THEN IT COULD MOVE AROUND BY ITSELF!
I BET IT CAN SWALLOW PEOPLE WHOLE.
THAT OBI IS HER WEAPON... IT MUST HAVE A SPECIAL POWER!


YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
HMM...
YOU'RE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.
IT'S JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH. IT COULD CARRY HER BEHIND WALLS AND THROUGH CRACKS— ANYWHERE SHE WANTS TO GO!

YOU HAVE GOOD EYES. THEY'RE PRETTY.
SO I'LL JUST PLUCK THEM OUT AND EAT THEM.

THE BOX ITSELF ISN'T BRO-KEN ...
...BUT IT'LL CRACK THE NEXT TIME IT TAKES A HIT.
I'M SORRY, NEZUKO.
THE SHOULDER STRAP BROKE.
I CAN'T FIGHT AND CARRY YOU.
THUK


I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU HERE.
UNLESS YOUR OWN LIFE IS IN DANGER, DON'T COME OUT OF THE BOX!


WATER BREATHING
FOURTH FORM:

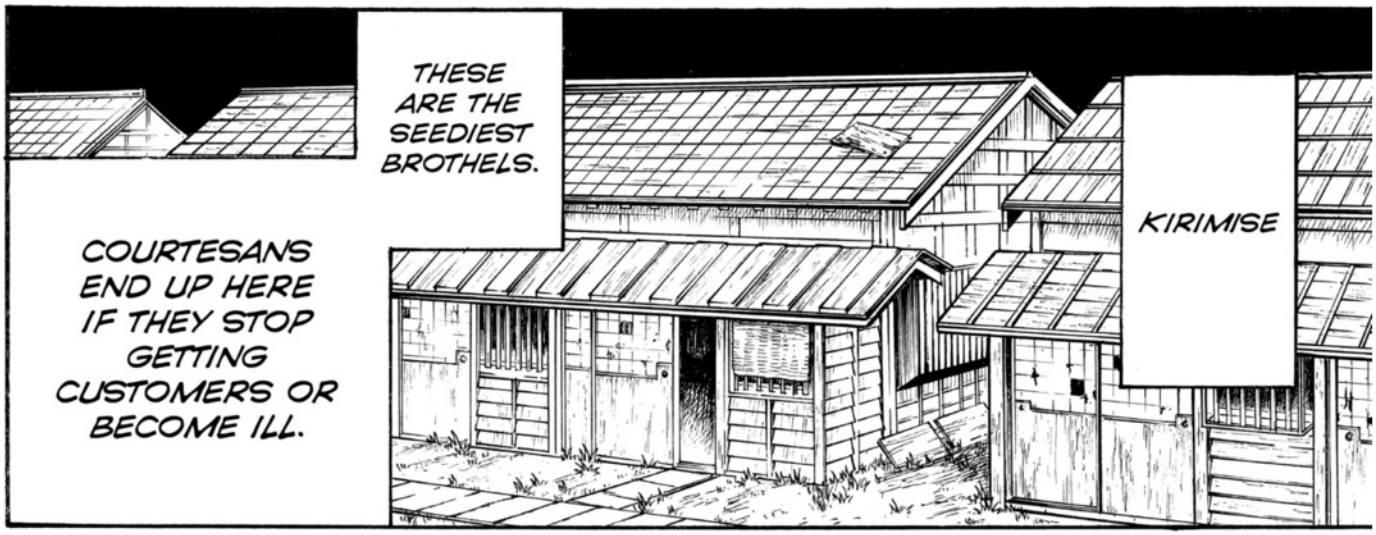
AHAHA
STRIKING TIDE: TURBULENT!
AHAHA

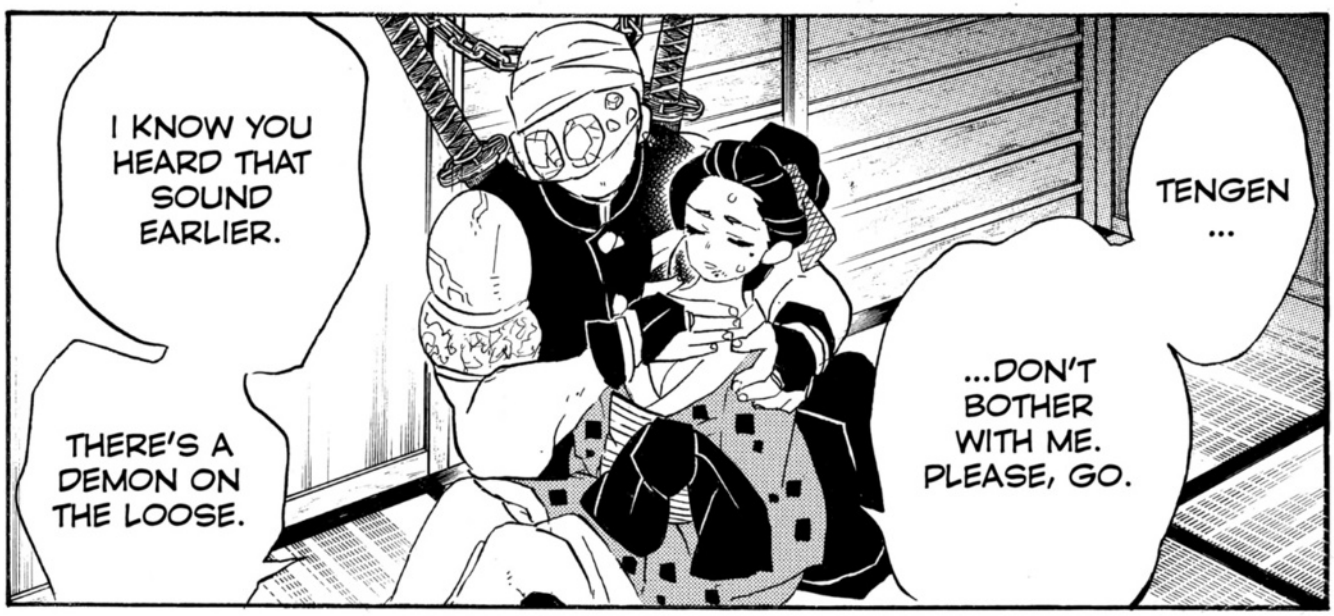
THE END
WHAT THE

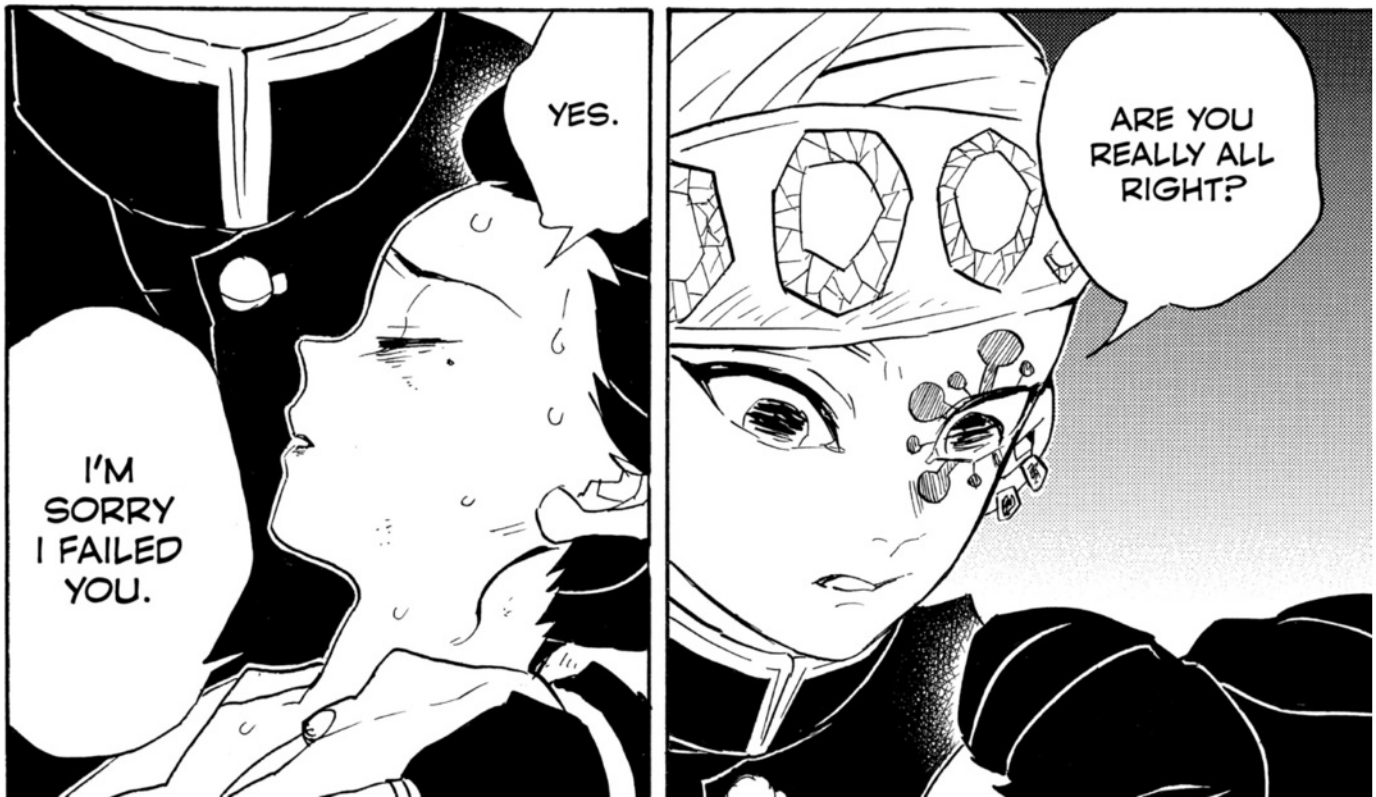
... LET HIM SLICE OFF THE END HOLDING KOINATSU.
HIS AERIAL MANEUVERS WEREN'T BAD. AND HIS SWORD SKILLS...
HFF
HFF
HFF
YOU'RE CUTE BUT YOU MAKE ME SICK.
A BIT LIKE A DYING RAT. I LIKE YOU.

SQUEEK
SQUEEK

CHAPTER 77: ROAR

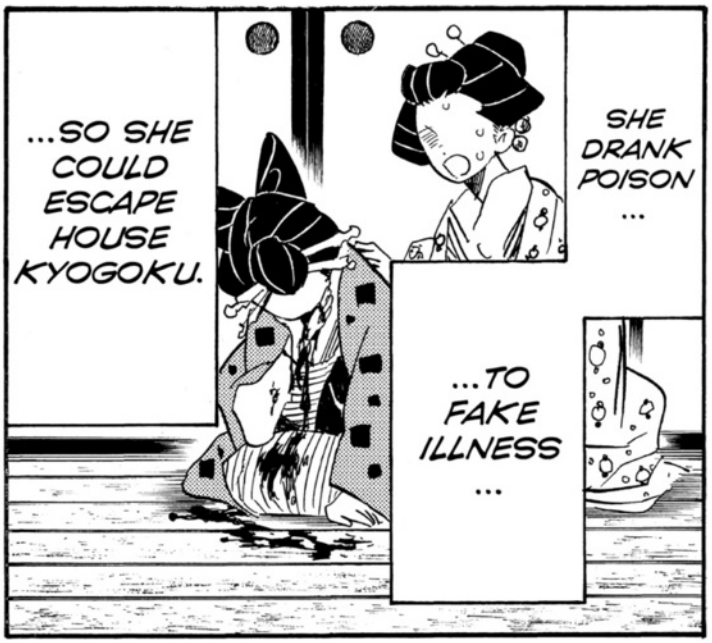

KIRIMISE
THESE ARE THE SEEDIEST BROTHELS.
COURTESANS END UP HERE IF THEY STOP GETTING CUSTOMERS OR BECOME ILL.

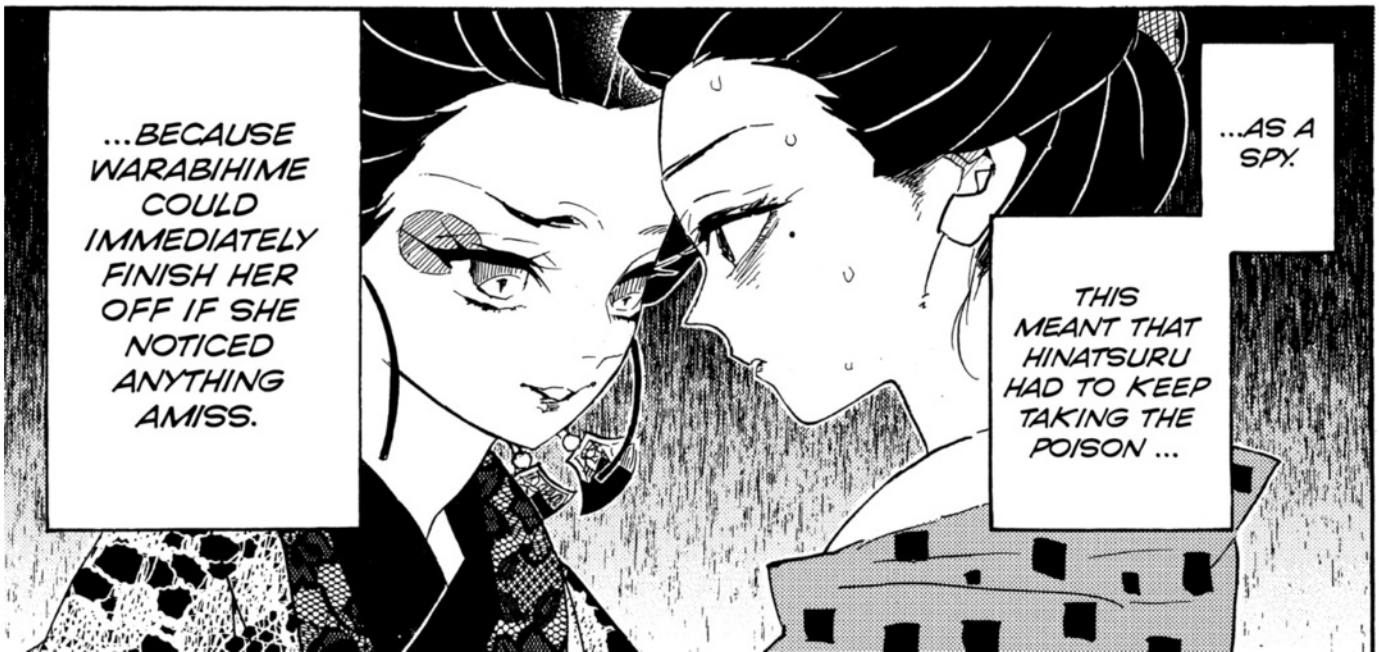

TENGEN ...
...DON'T BOTHER WITH ME. PLEASE, GO.
I KNOW YOU HEARD THAT SOUND EARLIER.
THERE'S A DEMON ON THE LOOSE.


ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
YES.
I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU.

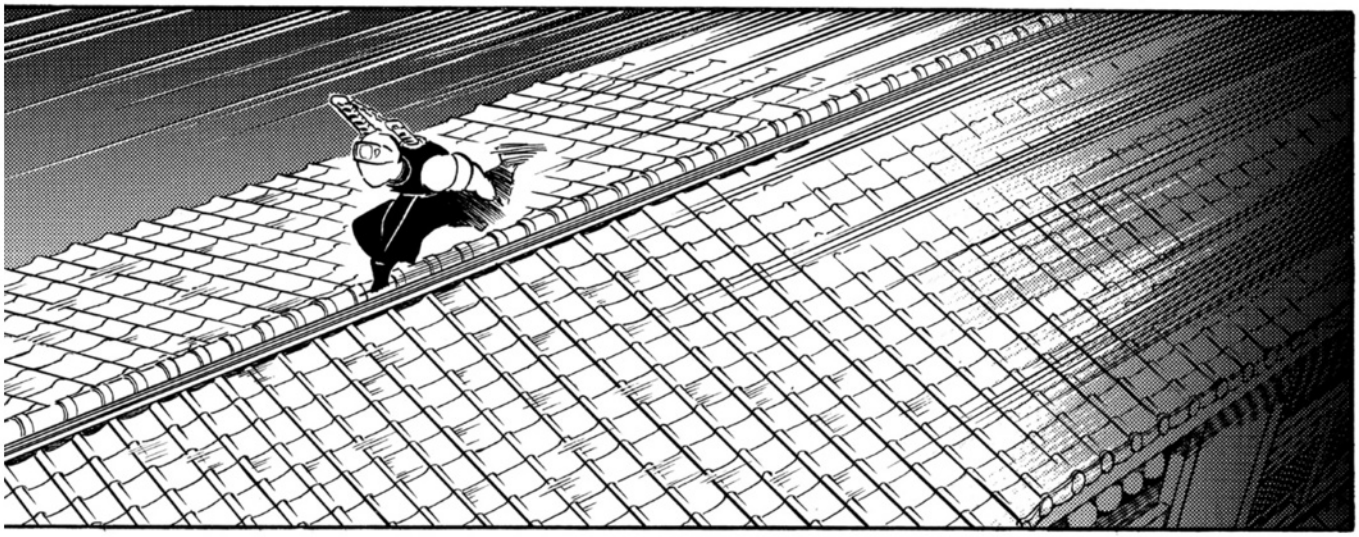
TENGEN'S WIFE HINATSURU ...
...RECOGNIZED THAT WARABIHIME OIRAN WAS A DEMON. BUT THEN THE OIRAN GREW SUSPICIOUS AND BEGAN WATCHING HER...
... MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO SEND OUT THE NEWS.

WHEN SHE LEFT, WARABIHIME OIRAN GAVE HER AN OBI...


...SO SHE COULD ESCAPE HOUSE KYOGOKU.
SHE DRANK POISON ...
...TO FAKE ILLNESS ...

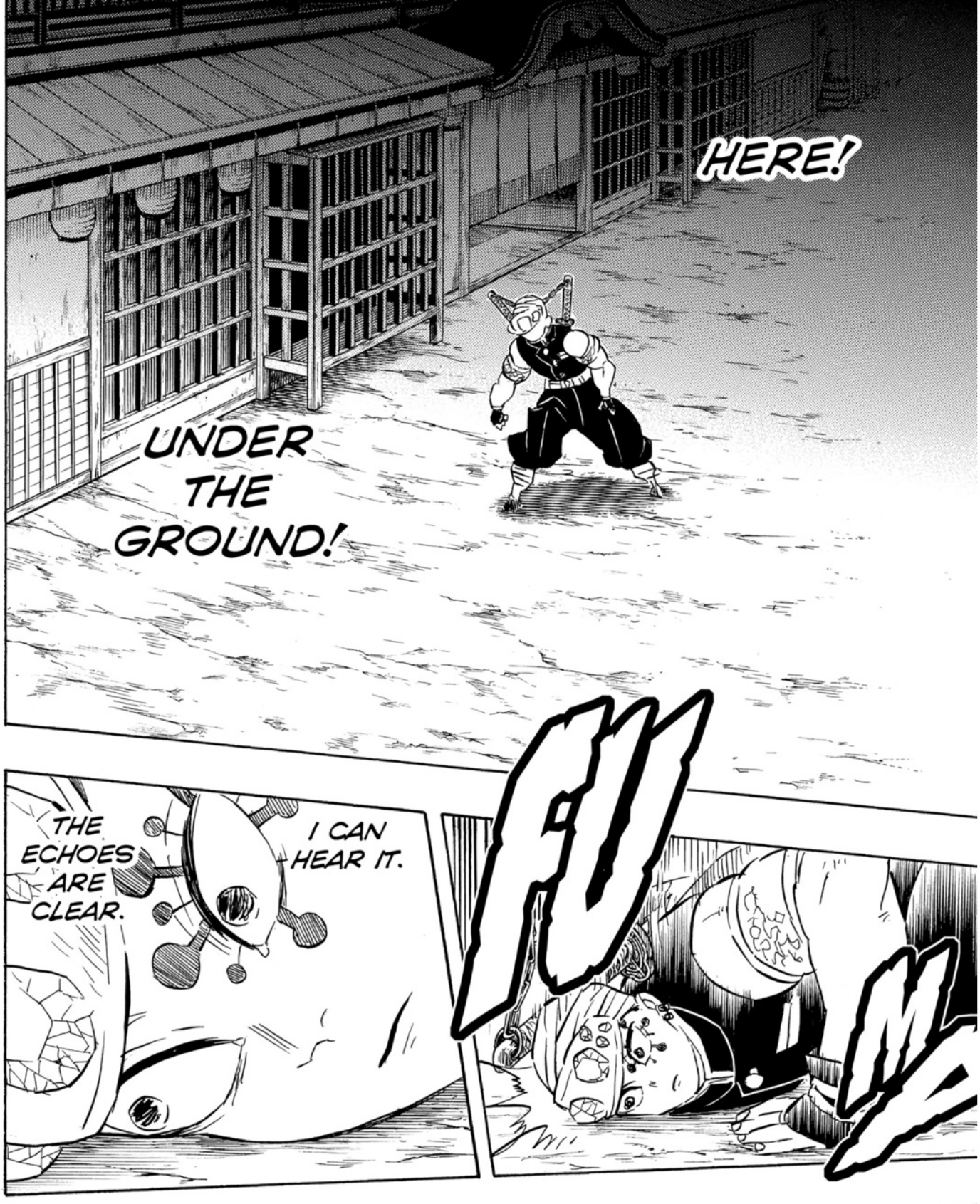

...BECAUSE WARABIHIME COULD IMMEDIATELY FINISH HER OFF IF SHE NOTICED ANYTHING AMISS.
...AS A SPY.
THIS MEANT THAT HINATSURU HAD TO KEEP TAKING THE POISON ...

YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU COULD. YOU DID WELL.
WHEN THE ANTIDOTE TAKES HOLD, GET OUT OF YOSHIWARA.
GOT IT?
...
I WILL.
HUG

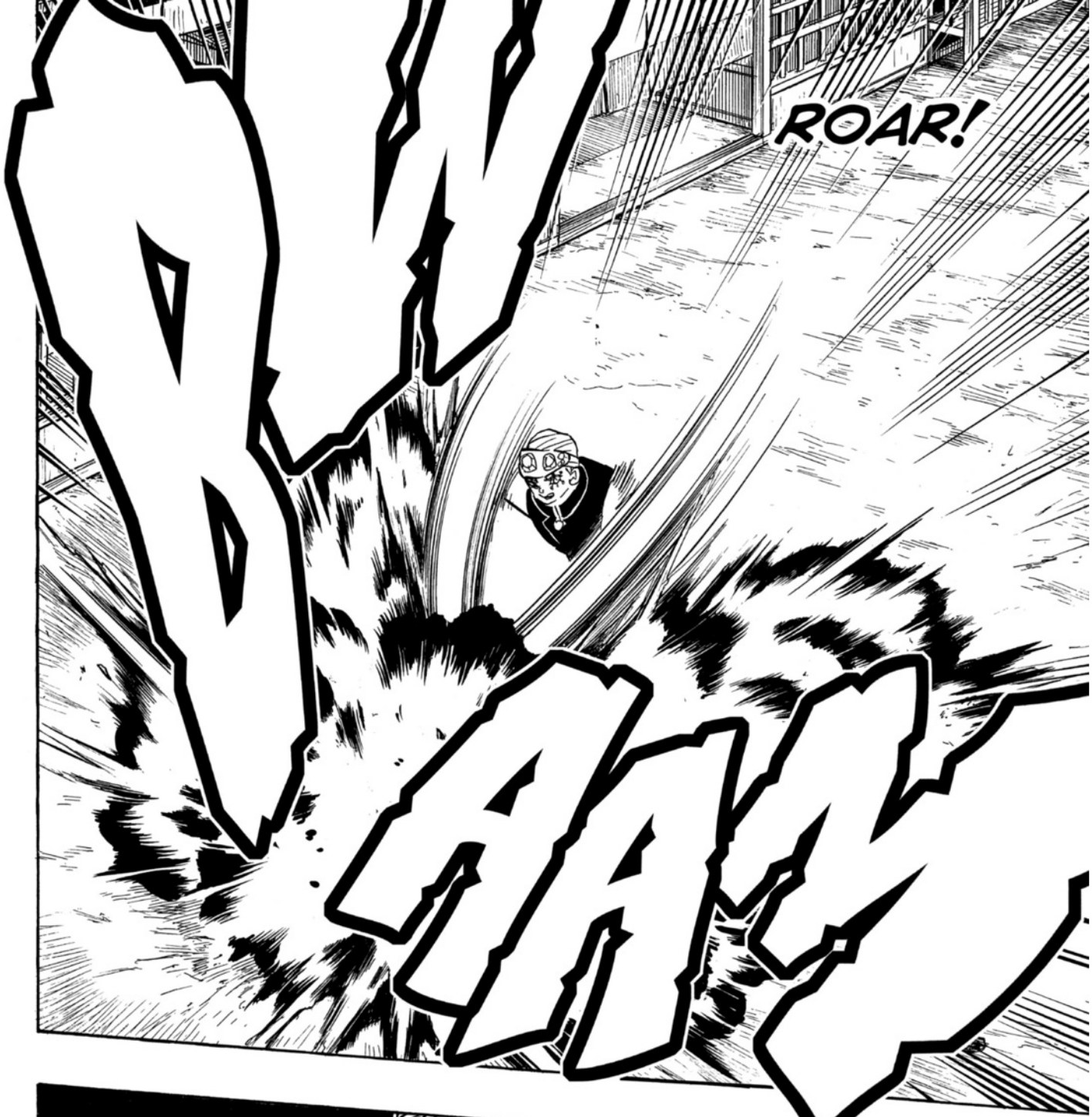


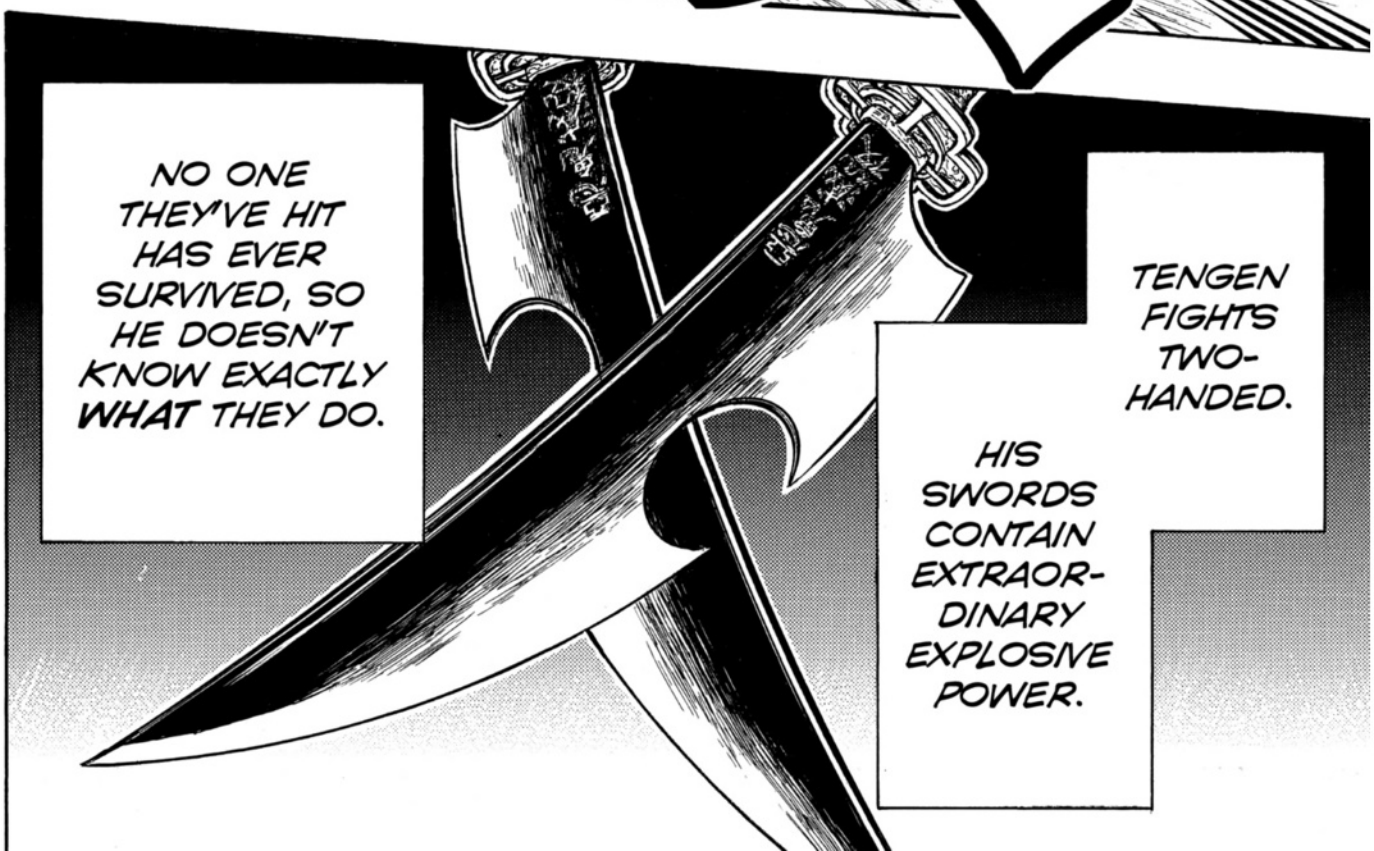
GOTTA FIND IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
I CAN SENSE THAT THE FIGHT HAS BEGUN ...
...BUT WHERE ?

SKEDPWK

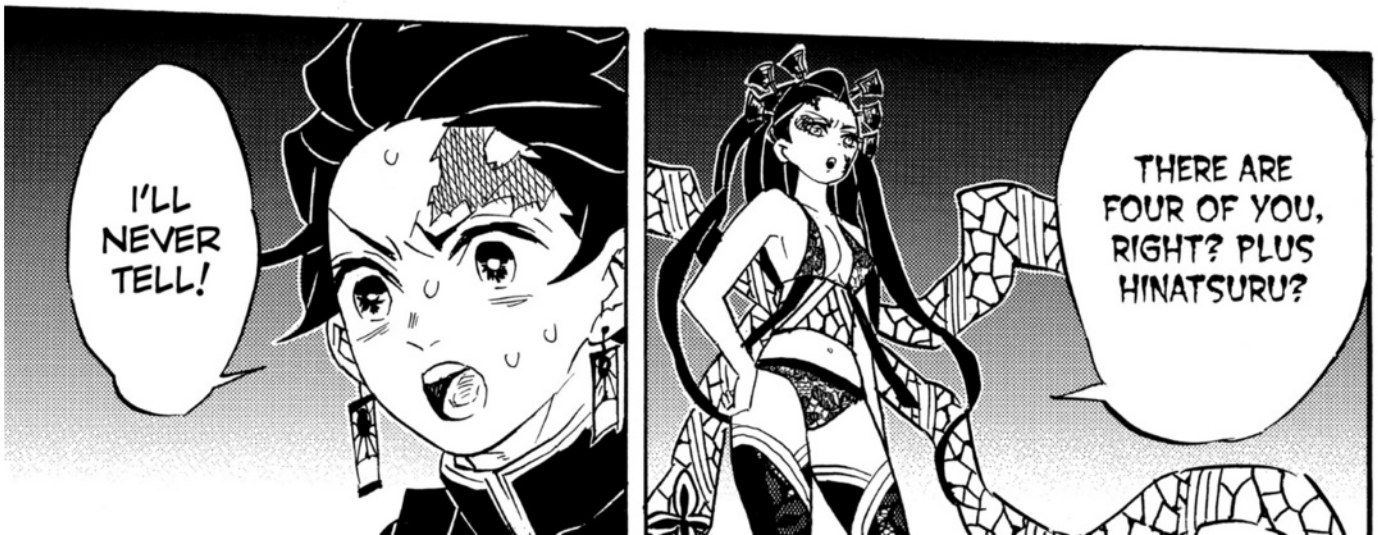

HERE!
UNDER THE GROUND!
THE ECHOES ARE CLEAR.
I CAN HEAR IT.
FU
...THE PATHS LEADING IN ARE ALL SO NARROW THAT ONLY A SMALL CHILD COULD USE THEM.
THERE'S A LARGE CAVERN DOWN THERE. BUT...

SHWP
SHING
SOUND BREATHING
FIRST FORM:

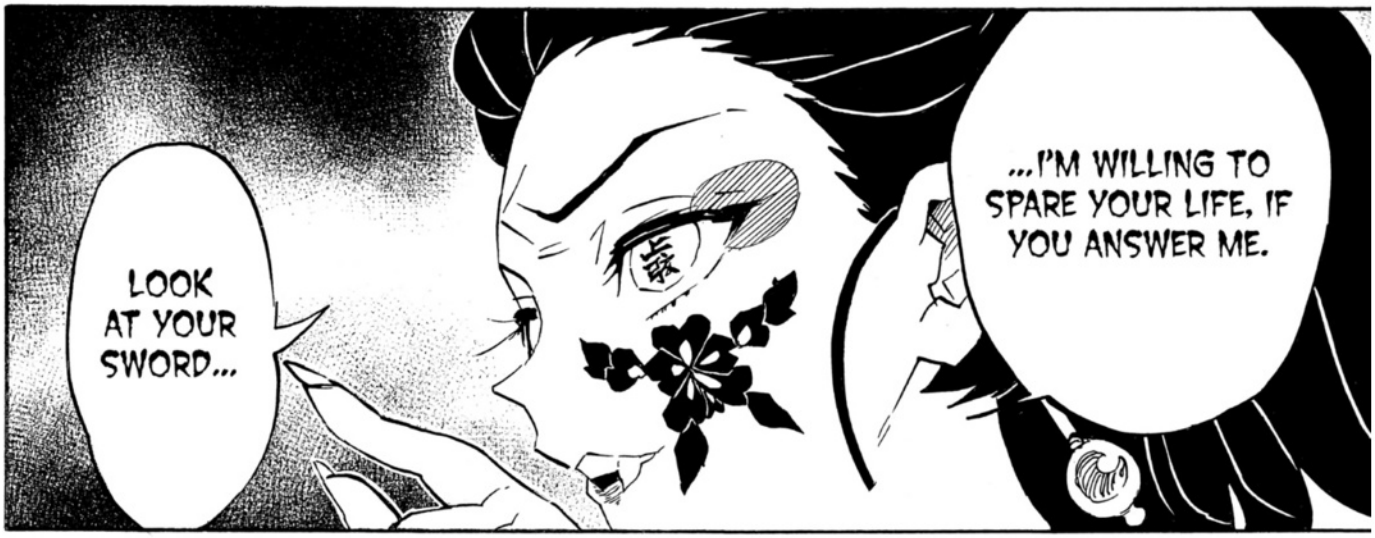

ROAR!
DAN


NO ONE THEY'VE HIT HAS EVER SURVIVED, SO HE DOESN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY DO.
TENGEN FIGHTS TWO-HANDED.
HIS SWORDS CONTAIN EXTRAORDINARY EXPLOSIVE POWER.

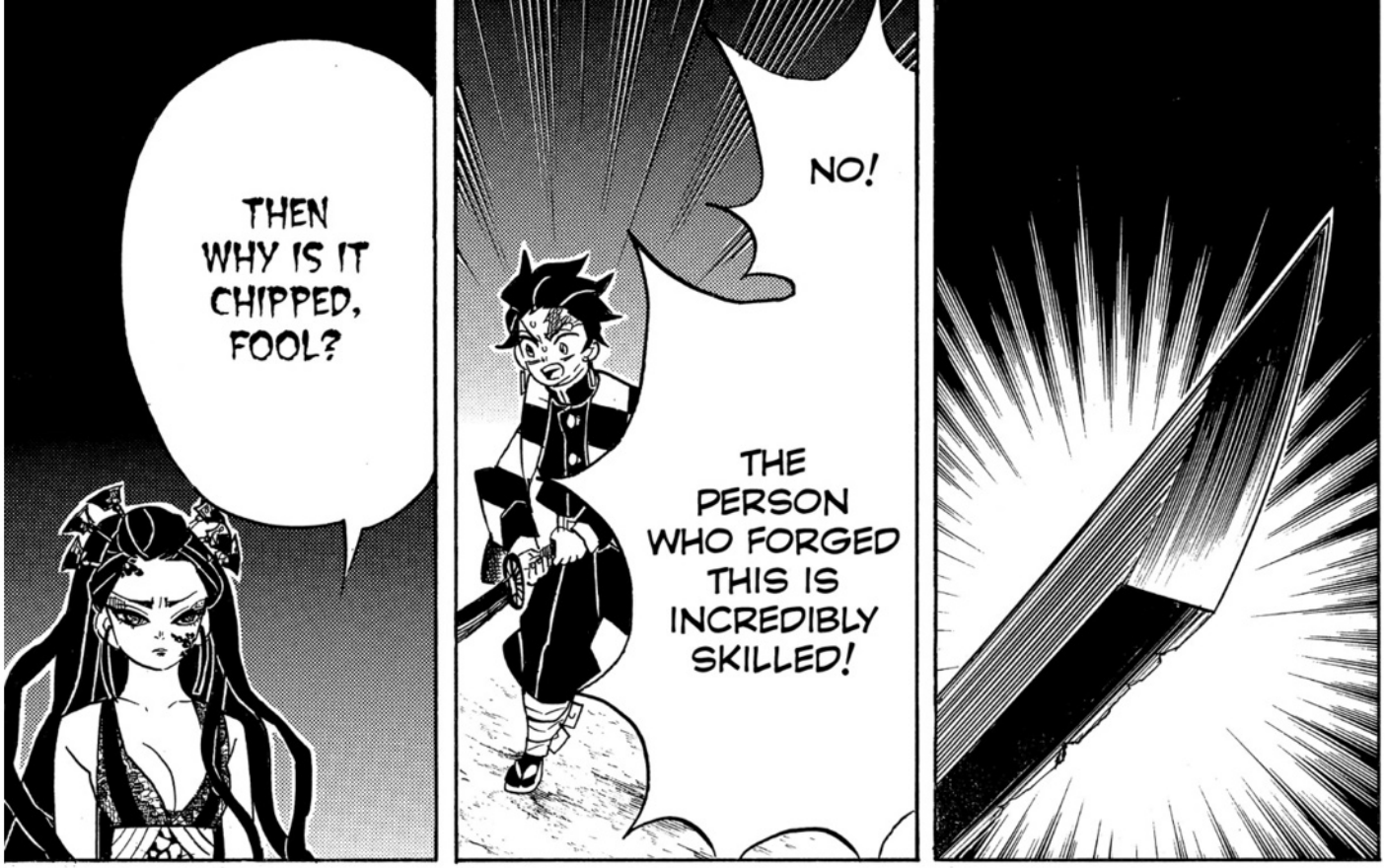
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU SCUM LACK ANY SUBTLETY.
WHERE?
NEAR HOUSE OGIMOTO, IS IT?
HOW MANY?

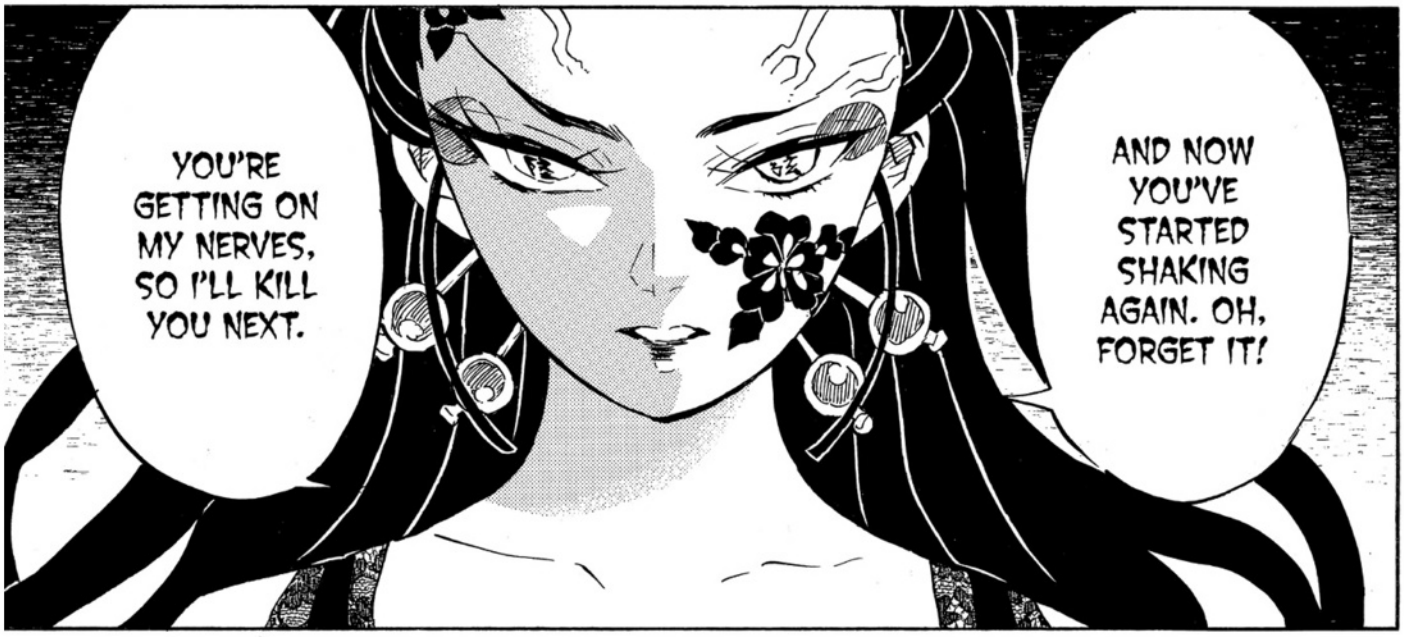

I'LL NEVER TELL!
THERE ARE FOUR OF YOU, RIGHT? PLUS HINATSURU?

LISTEN, LITTLE ONE. BECAUSE YOU FOUGHT SO BRAVELY BEFORE...

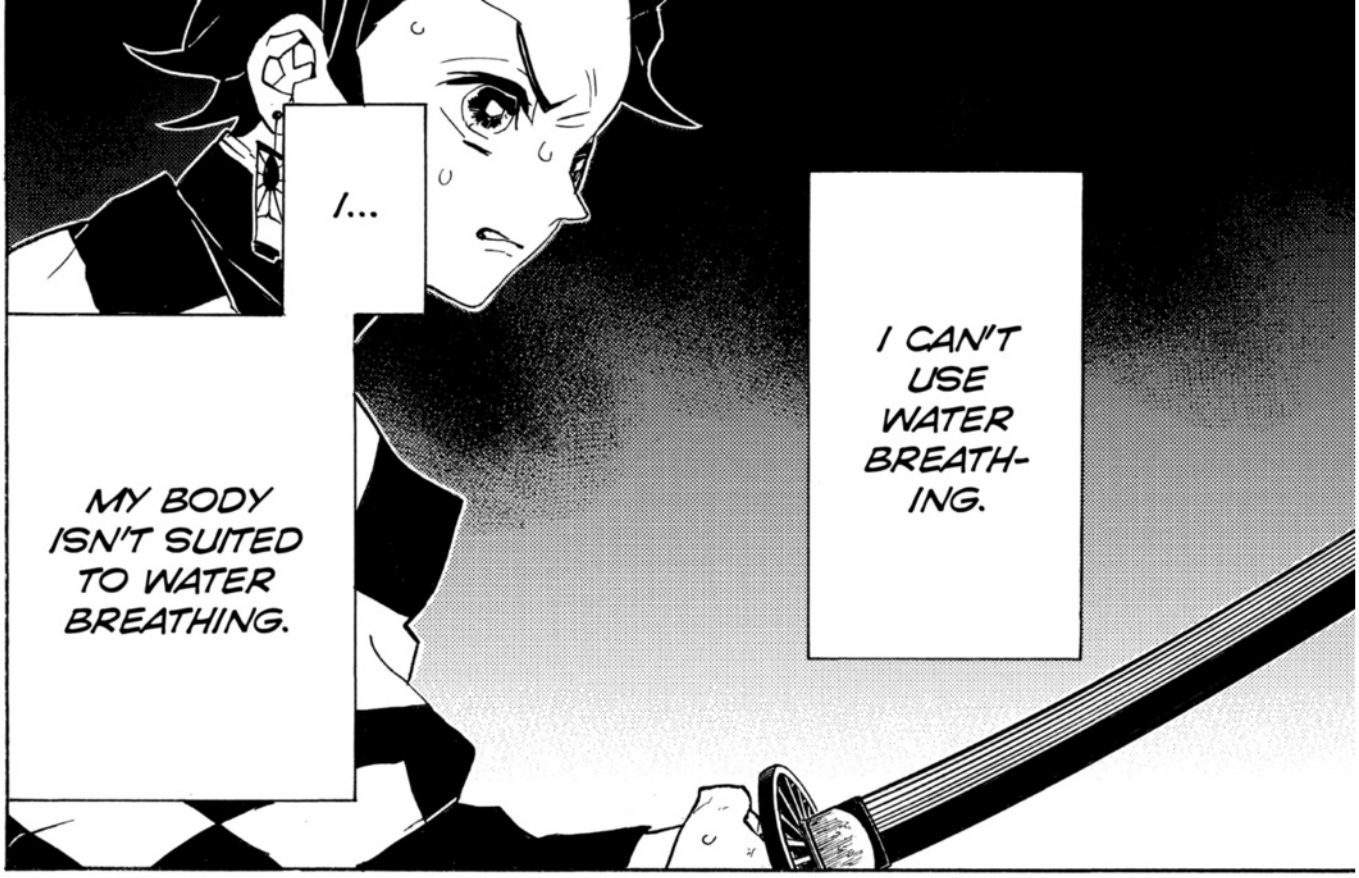

...I'M WILLING TO SPARE YOUR LIFE, IF YOU ANSWER ME.
LOOK AT YOUR SWORD...

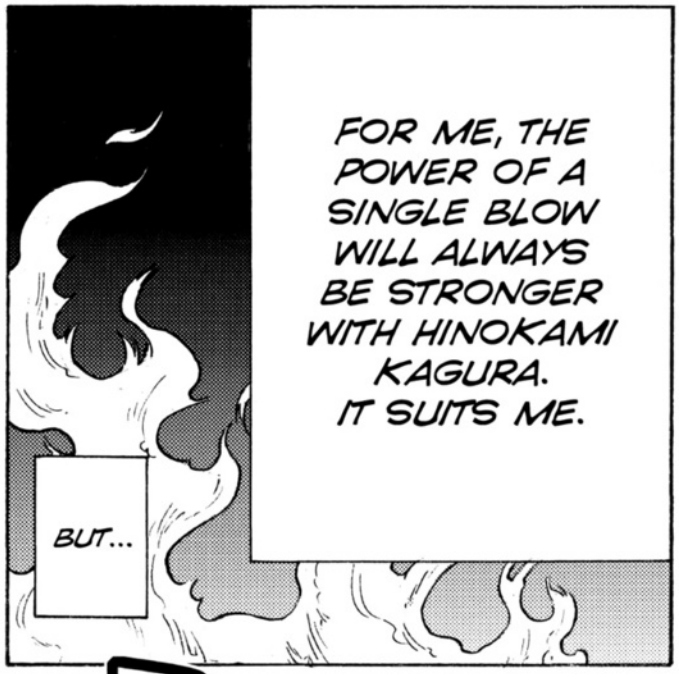
THE BLADE IS ALREADY CHIPPED.
I SUPPOSE IT WAS MADE BY AN INFERIOR SWORDSMITH.


THEN WHY IS IT CHIPPED, FOOL?
NO!
THE PERSON WHO FORGED THIS IS INCREDIBLY SKILLED!


YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES, SO I'LL KILL YOU NEXT.
AND NOW YOU'VE STARTED SHAKING AGAIN. OH, FORGET IT!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
I WASN'T UP TO THE TASK.
IT'S MY OWN FAULT.
A BLADE CHIPS WHEN THE WIELDER IS BAD.


I...
I CAN'T USE WATER BREATH-ING.
MY BODY ISN'T SUITED TO WATER BREATHING.


FOR ME, THE POWER OF A SINGLE BLOW WILL ALWAYS BE STRONGER WITH HINOKAMI KAGURA. IT SUITS ME.
BUT...

I CAN NEVER USE WATER BREATHING LIKE UROKODAKI OR TOMIOKA.

GRIP

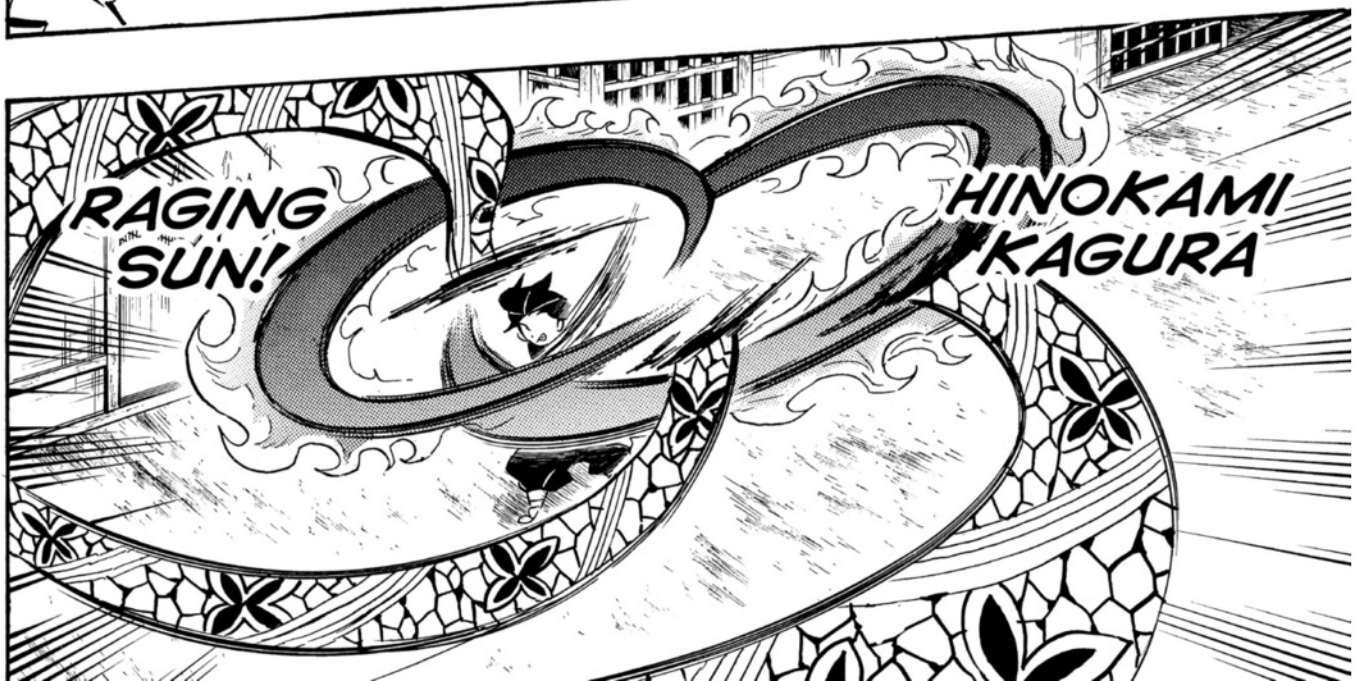
...I NEVER COULD DO MULTIPLE STRIKES.
...BECAUSE OF THAT STRENGTH...

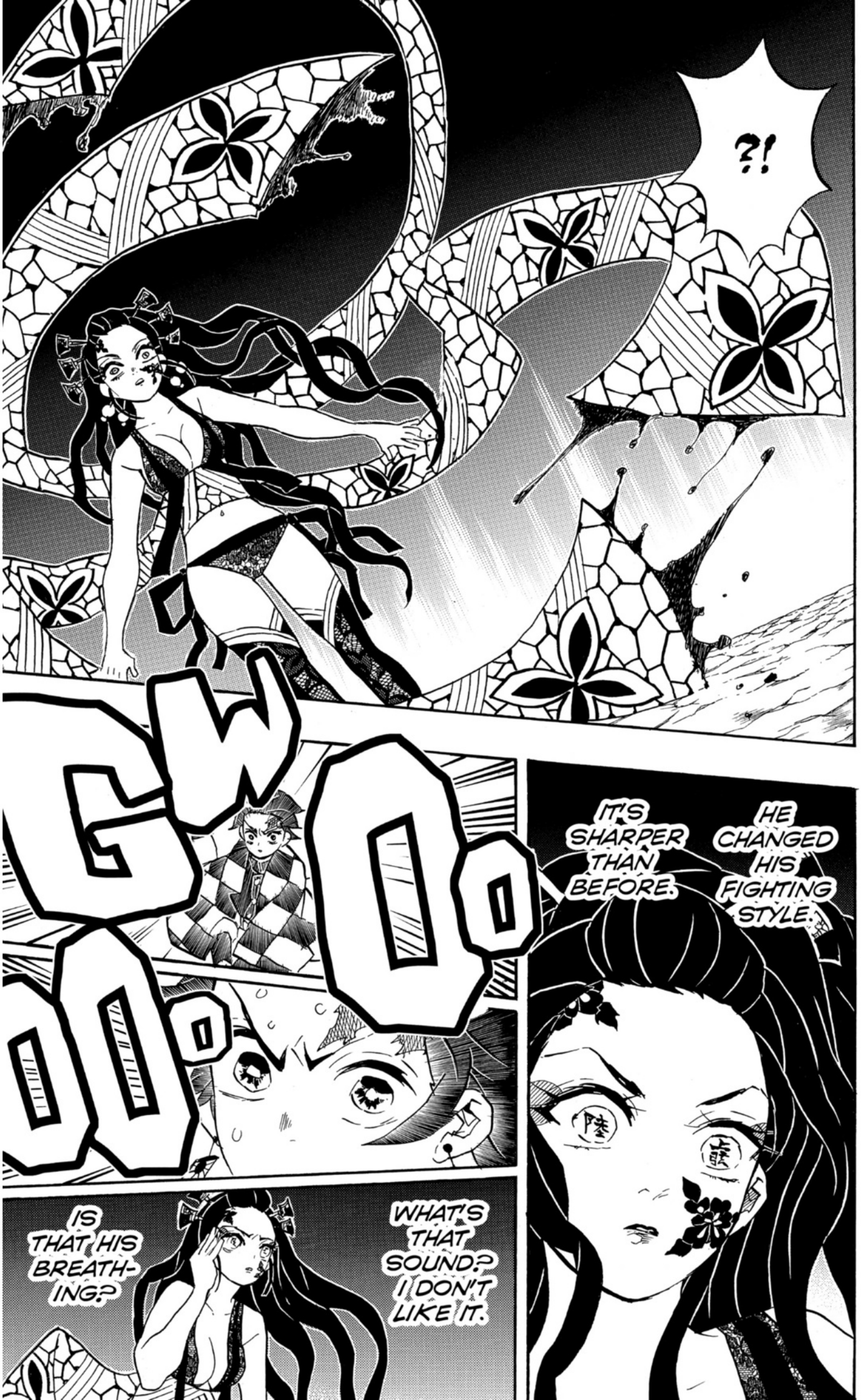
THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
NOW I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT.
NO...
NOW I WILL DO IT!

BURN ...
I REFUSE TO LOSE!
THIS IS WHAT I TRAINED FOR.

... BURN!
... BURN ...

"KEEP YOUR HEART BURNING!"


RAGING SUN!
HINOKAMI KAGURA


?!
ゴゴゴ
IT'S SHARPER THAN BEFORE.
HE CHANGED HIS FIGHTING STYLE.
IS THAT HIS BREATH-ING?
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? I DON'T LIKE IT.

FLAME DANCE!

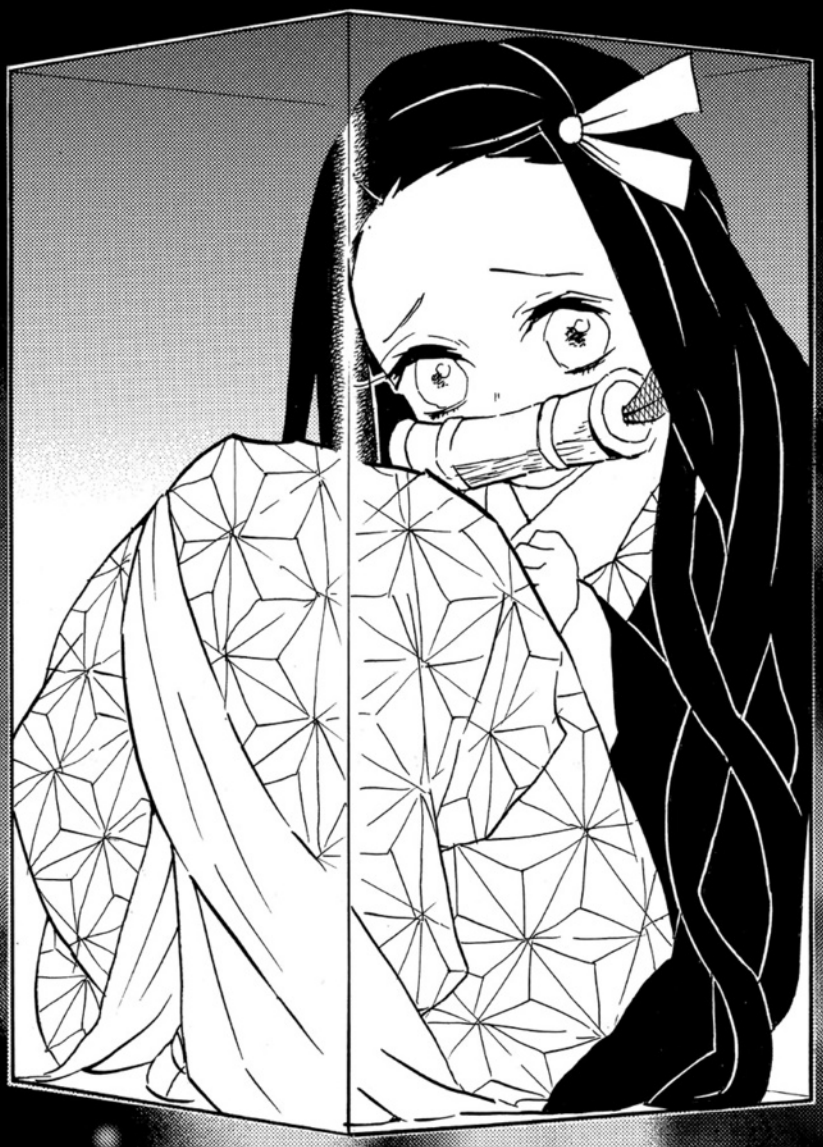
FLAME DANCE IS A COMBO. EVEN IF SHE DODGES...
...THERE'S A SECOND BLOW COMING!
THAT'S NOTHING SPECIAL...
SWOOSH
...AFTER ALL!

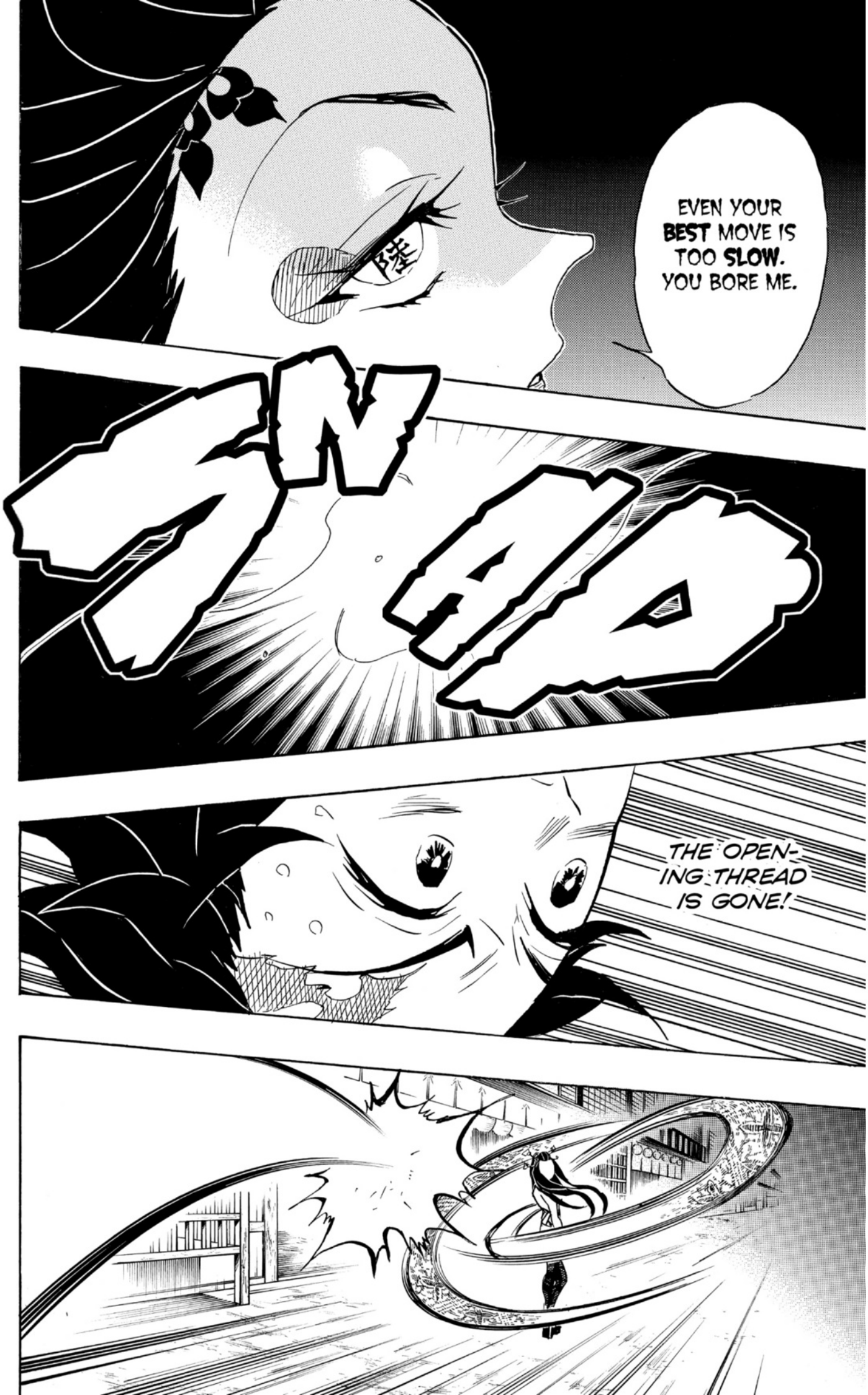
WHIP
FAKE RAINBOW!
HINOKAMI KAGURA
...THE CLEARER THEY'LL SEE YOUR FALSE AFTER-IMAGE.
THE BETTER AN OPPO-NENT'S VISION IS...
WITH ITS HIGH-SPEED TWIST AND SPIN, THIS MOVE IS DESIGNED TO CONFUSE.

HINOKAMI KAGURA
I SEE IT! I CAN DO THIS!
THERE'S AN OPENING THREAD!
FIRE WHEEL!

Oh dear.
A cold?
ACHOO

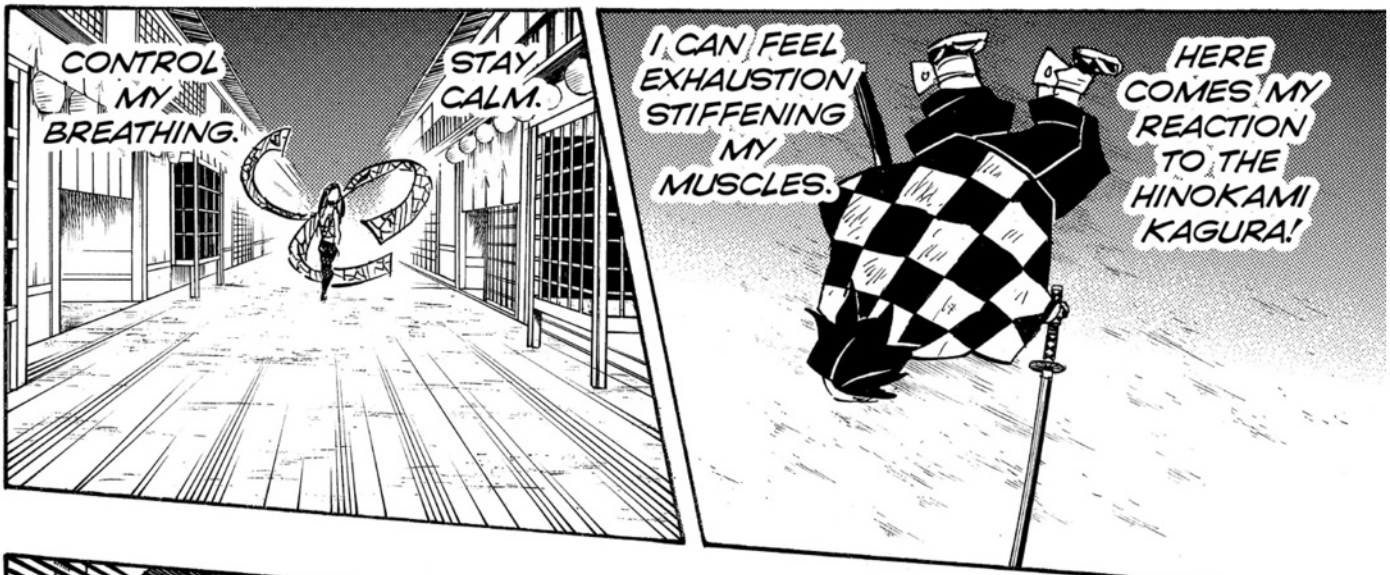
CHAPTER 78: WRIGGLY




EVEN YOUR BEST MOVE IS TOO SLOW. YOU BORE ME.
ZNAP
THE OPEN-ING THREAD IS GONE!

BRACE YOUR-SELF!
BRACE YOUR—
THMP
THMP
THMP
GASP
SKOOO

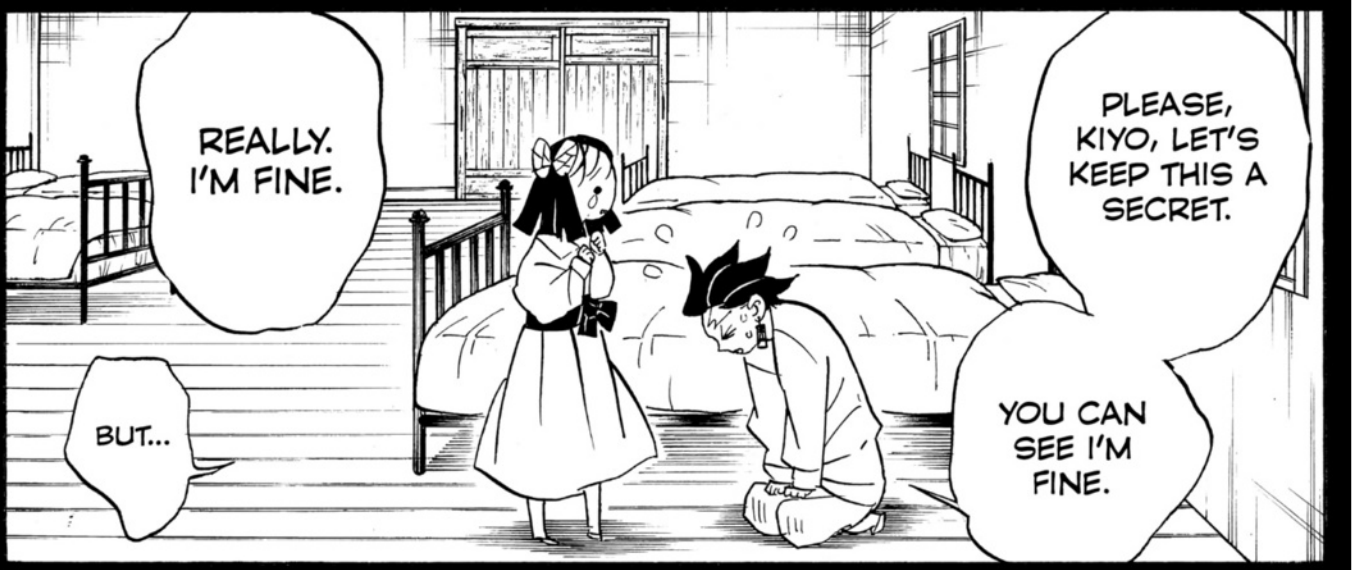
DOPBMP
DOPBMP
DOPBMP
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF

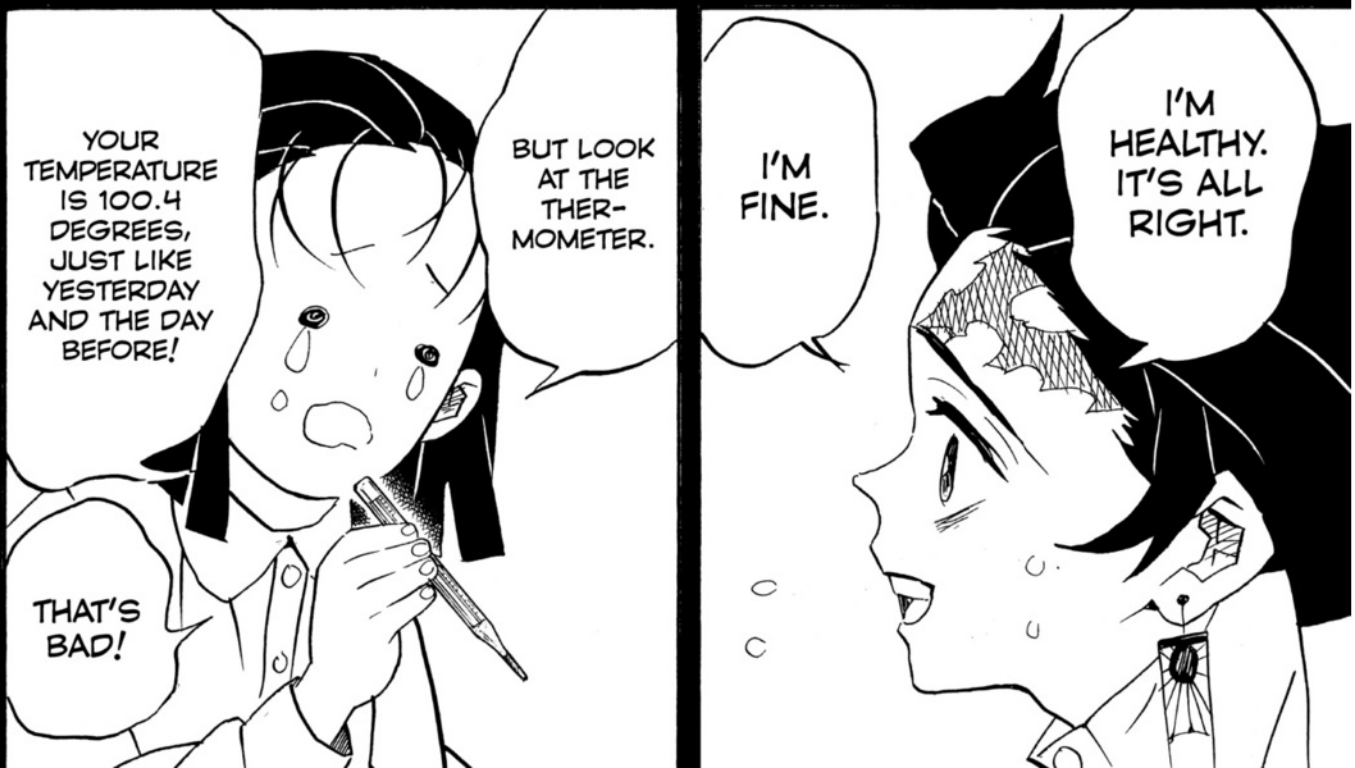

CONTROL MY BREATHING.
STAY CALM.
I CAN FEEL EXHAUSTION STIFFENING MY MUSCLES.
HERE COMES MY REACTION TO THE HINOKAMI KAGURA!

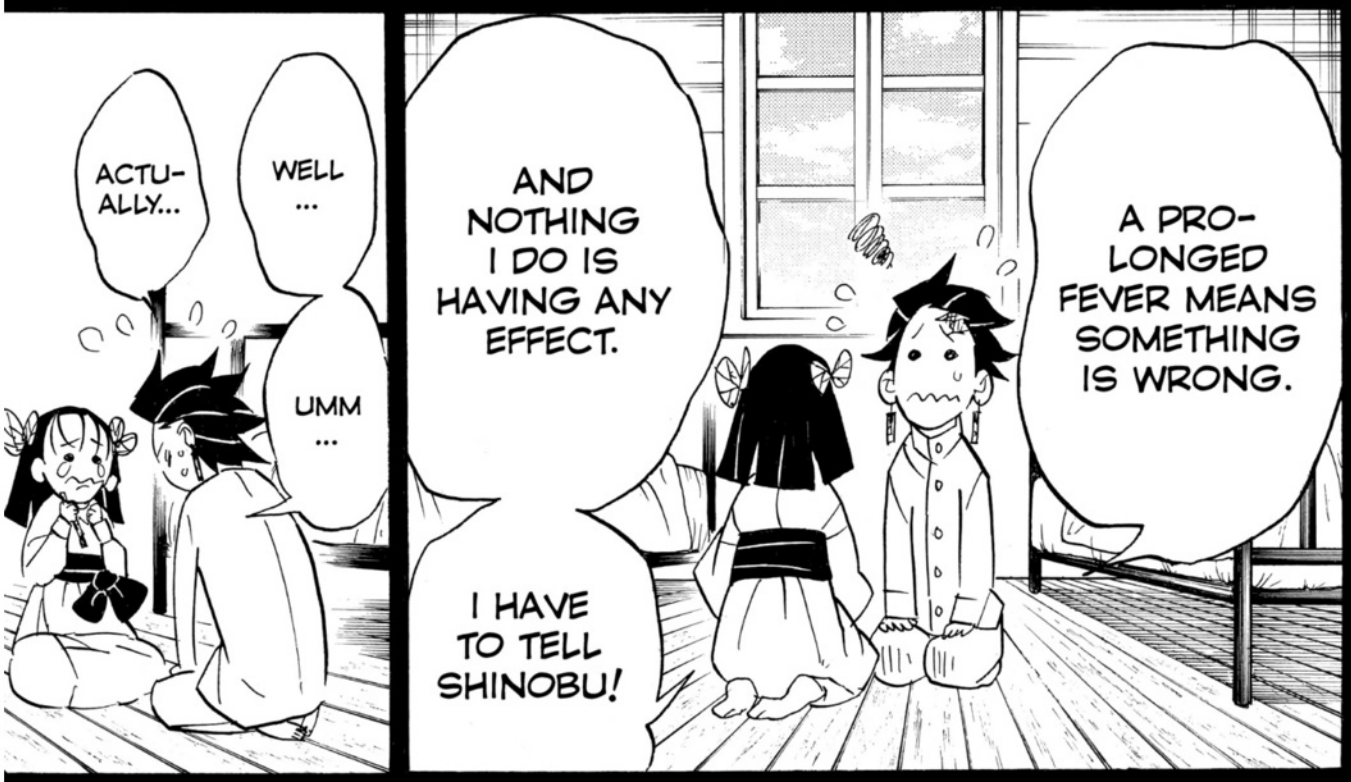
MUST HURRY!
HEAL MYSELF!
RECOVERY BREATHING!

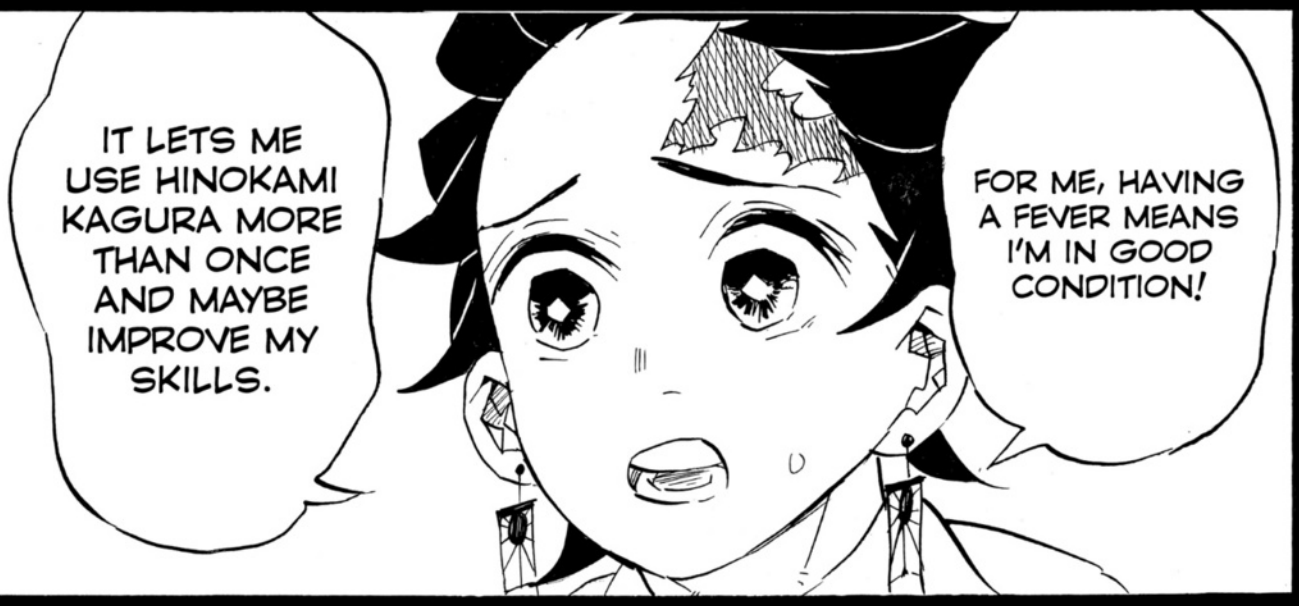
THAT OBI IS AS TOUGH AS A BLADE.
MY ATTACKS ARE TOO SLOW! EVEN IF I SEE AN OPENING THREAD, IT BREAKS RIGHT AWAY!
RAISE MY BODY TEMPERATURE!
THAT'S IT! EVEN MORE!

I MUST TELL SHINOBU ...
...THAT YOUR FEVER ISN'T BREAKING.


PLEASE, KIYO, LET'S KEEP THIS A SECRET.
REALLY. I'M FINE.
YOU CAN SEE I'M FINE.
BUT...


I'M HEALTHY. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M FINE.
BUT LOOK AT THE THER-MOMETER.
YOUR TEMPERATURE IS 100.4 DEGREES, JUST LIKE YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE!
THAT'S BAD!


A PRO-LONGED FEVER MEANS SOMETHING IS WRONG.
AND NOTHING I DO IS HAVING ANY EFFECT.
I HAVE TO TELL SHINOBU!
WELL ...
ACTU-ALLY...
UMM ...


FOR ME, HAVING A FEVER MEANS I'M IN GOOD CONDITION!
IT LETS ME USE HINOKAMI KAGURA MORE THAN ONCE AND MAYBE IMPROVE MY SKILLS.

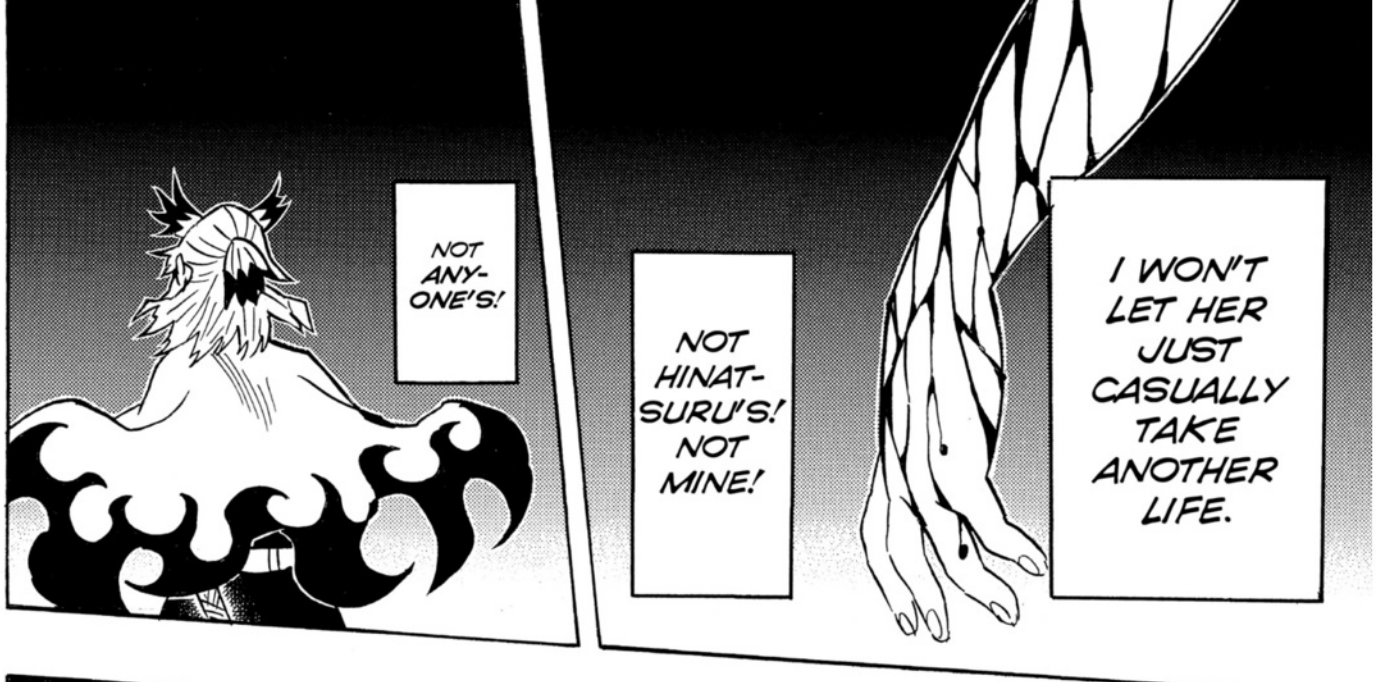
PLEASE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER TO REPORT TO SHINOBU?
SWEAT SWEAT
A LITTLE LONGER? JUST A LITTLE!
...
BOW BOW

WELL... OKAY.
BUT JUST A LITTLE.
SWISH
THUMP
HE'S TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.
INTEREST-ING.

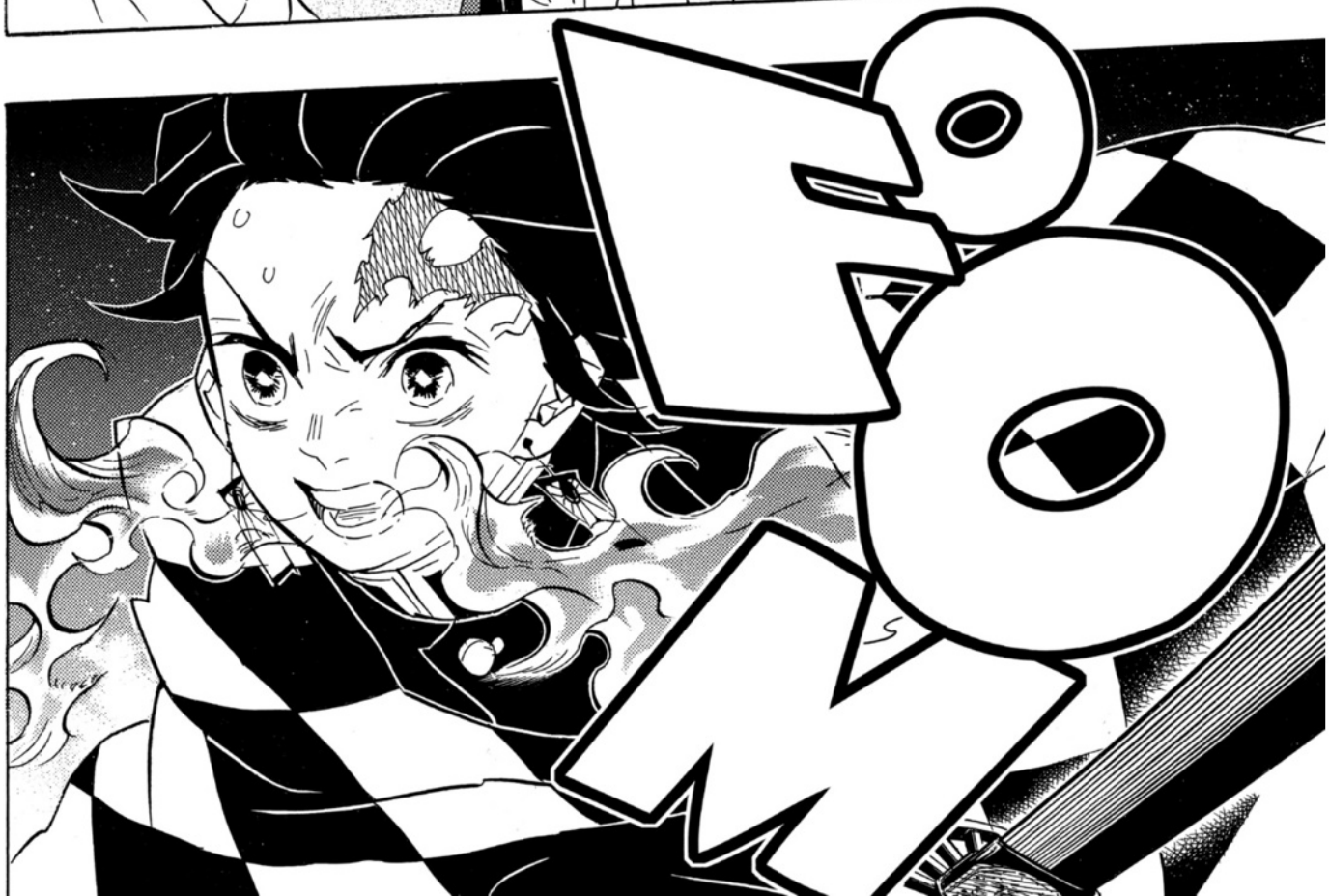
HFF
HFF
I'M HOLDING MY OWN...
...AGAINST AN UPPER RANK-DEMON!
HINOKAMI KAGURA IS WORKING!
NO!
HFF

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO FIGHT TO A DRAW!
I HAVE TO WIN THIS.
I HAVE TO USE ALL THE STRENGTH I HAVE AND FIND A WAY TO WIN!

...TO SAVE PEOPLE.
FWOOP
IN ORDER...


I WON'T LET HER JUST CASUALLY TAKE ANOTHER LIFE.
NOT HINAT-SURU'S! NOT MINE!
NOT ANY-ONE'S!

I WON'T LET ANYONE EXPERIENCE THE SAME SADNESS WE HAVE!



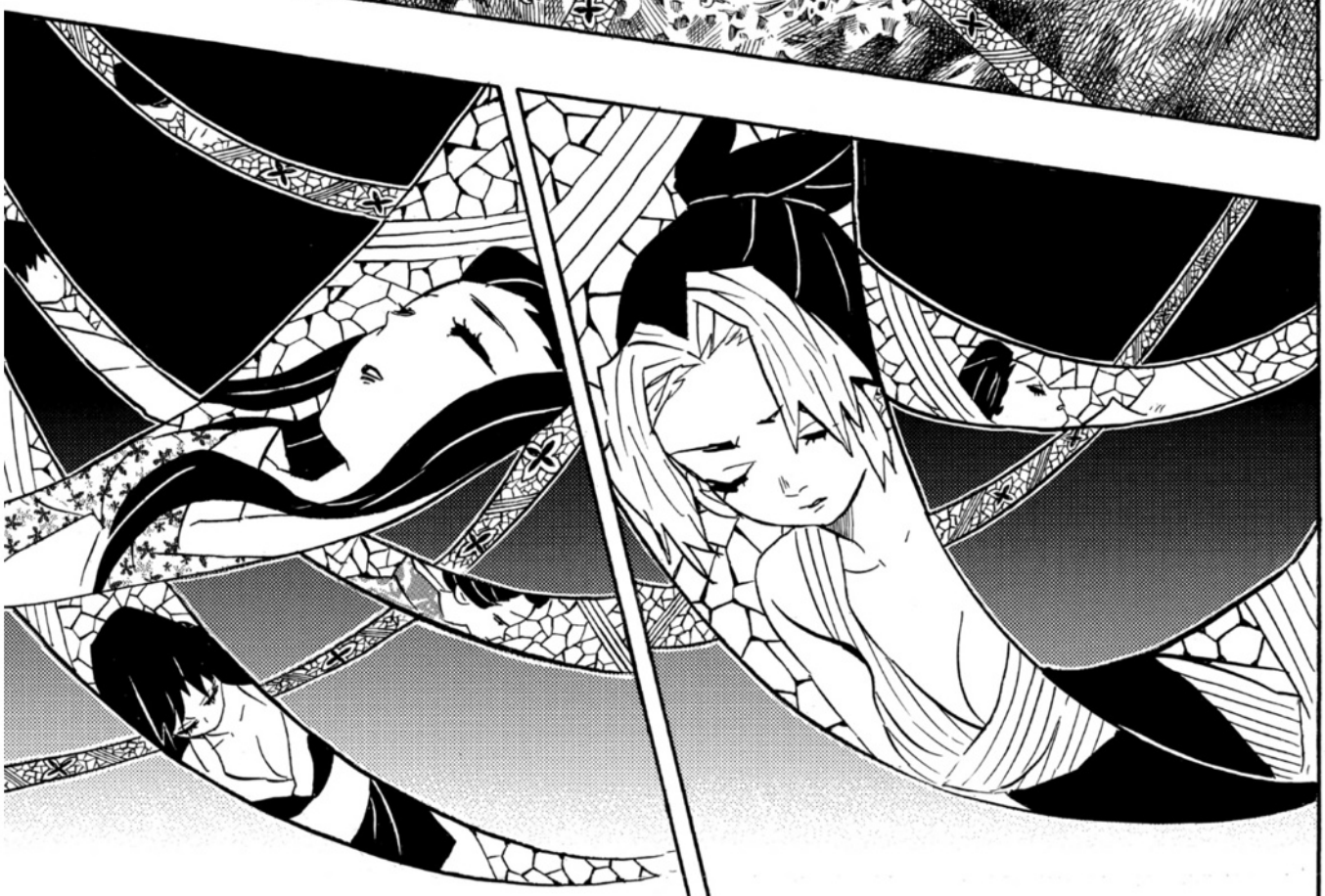
TEE HEE!
UGLY PEOPLE CAN TRY HARD, BUT THEY'RE STILL UGLY.
YAAAAH!
A LITTLE EARLIER, AT HOUSE OGIMOTO...

WHAT?!
A WILD BOAR MONSTER IS GOING CRAZY DESTROYING THE CEILING AND FLOORS!
YOU! GET READY FOR WORK!
TMP TMP
A MONSTER! A MONSTER!
HFF
HFF
WHAT HAPPENED?

I SENSE THE PRES-ENCE OF A DEMON!
HA! HA HA! I FOUND IT! A HOLE LEADING TO THE DEMON NEST!
THWOOP
PREPARE YOURSELF!
HA HA HA HA!
ONLY MY HEAD FITS, HUH?
SPLAT

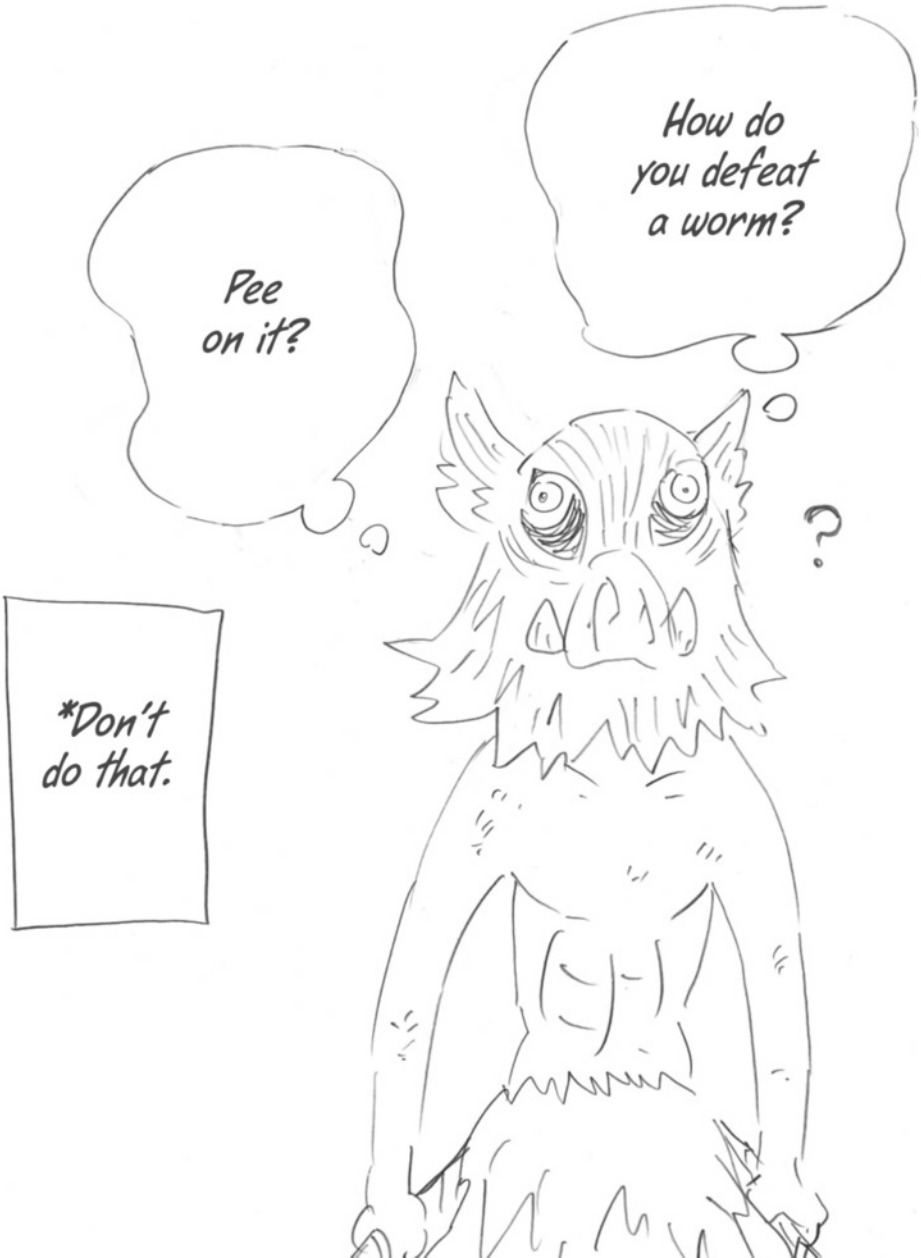
NO PROBLEM!
YOU CAN'T STOP LORD INOSUKE THAT EASILY!
KRIK SNI AP
POA
EEEEEEK
I CAN DISLOCATE ALL THE JOINTS IN MY BODY!
IN OTHER WORDS, IF MY HEAD FITS THROUGH, I CAN GO ANYWHERE!
FLOP
FLOP

NO ONE CAN STOP ME!
HA HA HA HA! HEADLONG RUSH!
GRAAAH!
ZWP ZWP
GRAAAH!
!!
BOO



THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALIVE! I CAN SENSE IT!
SNAP
KRIK
A CLOTH WITH A HUMAN PATTERN? WHAT IS THIS?!
NO...
THEN SHE TAKES THEM OUT WHEN SHE'S READY TO EAT THEM!
SHE TRAPS THE PEOPLE SHE CAPTURES INSIDE HER BELLY WRAP!
WHAT A LOSER!
HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
!
WHY HAVE YOU COME INTO MY PANTRY?!
SHFF
FOUL!
UN-CLEAN!
ZWP
ZWP
YOU DIRTY...
...STINK-ING...
...PIG!
ZWP
ZWP
ZWP
WHAT'S WITH THIS WORM THING? GROSS!


How do you defeat a worm?
Pee on it?
?
*Don't do that.

CHAPTER 79: AIR HOLE

KLANG
YOU WRIGGLE AND WIGGLE AROUND!
YOU'RE JUST A CREEPY WORM THING!
KA
YOU SLUGGISH GRUB! YOU GOT GREEDY AND SWALLOWED TOO MANY PEOPLE!
HA HA HA HA HA!

THE ATTACKS OF A FAT WORM LIKE YOU WON'T HIT LORD INOSUKE!
GET IT TOGETHER AND TRY AGAIN!
SHLOOP
THUD
TSK! HIS CUTS NEVER HIT ANY OF MY CAPTIVES!
I THOUGHT STORING SUCH FRESH FOOD WOULD HINDER MY ENEMIES!

HE SENSES ATTACKS COMING FROM ANY DIRECTION AND EASILY DODGES THEM!
AND HIS INSTINCTS ARE SHARP!
HE'S ALERT TO ALL INCOMING DANGER!
CAPTURE HIM ALIVE!
...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I NEVER EXPECTED A DEMON SLAYER TO ENTER MY LARDER!
TAKING HIM ALIVE WILL BE HARDER THAN JUST KILLING HIM OUTRIGHT, SO...
HE'S THE PRETTY ONE WHO INTERRUPTED WHEN WE CAPTURED MAKIO!

I'LL SAVE THE TEN MOST BEAUTIFUL ONES! BEYOND THAT, I'LL EAT AS MANY AS I NEED!
...I'LL EAT A FEW OF THEM AND GAIN SOME EXTRA STRENGTH.
GRAAAAH!
WHSSH
RRSH
!

WHY WON'T IT CUT?!
BECAUSE IT'S TOO WRIGGLY?
SWOOF
CHA

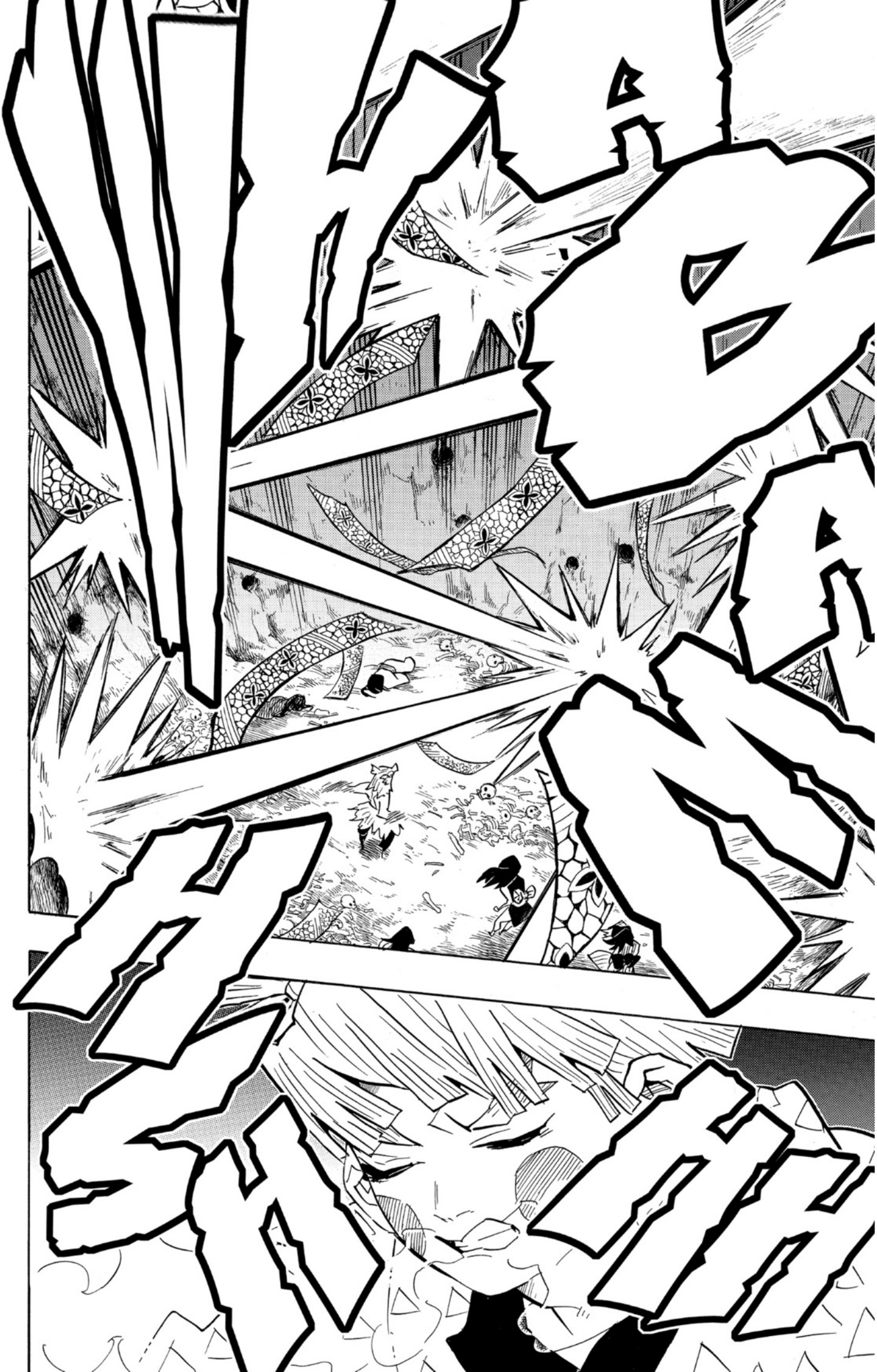
WHAT
FWIP
THOK
CH!

BEAST BREATHING
PALISADE BITE
SIXTH FANG:
THERE'S NO POINT IN SLICING ME UP. THIS ISN'T MY MAIN BODY.
BESIDES, WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU STOLE FROM ME. DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT THEM?
?!
WHILE WE FIGHT, I CAN JUST SWALLOW THEM BACK UP AGAIN!

UH-OH!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING THOSE PEOPLE WHILE I FIGHT, BUT...
TOK-TOK
TOK

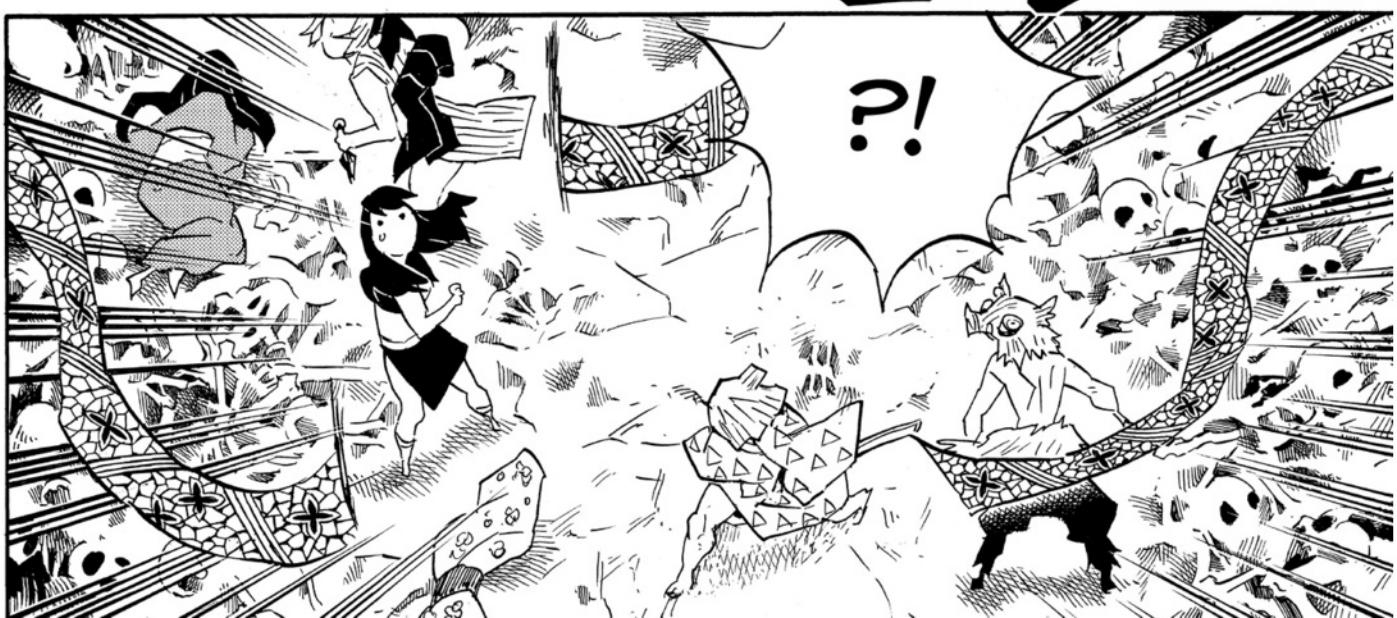
IT REALLY IS CREEPY! HE'S TOTALLY RIGHT!
"WORM-OBI"! I LIKE THAT!
I'LL TELL TENGEN ABOUT IT!
EEK
WE'RE HERE TO HELP, BOAR-HEAD, SO HANG IN THERE!
...I'M NOT A FIGHT-ER!
WE'RE UZUI'S WIVES! WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN BUT...
OKAY BUT... WHO *ARE* YOU?!

BUT MAKIO, YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE! I GOT CAPTURED RIGHT AWAY!
SUMA! DON'T BE SO HUMBLE!
THAT MONSTER! IT SAID THIS ISN'T ITS MAIN BODY. IF THAT'S TRUE...
...THEN THIS FIGHT WILL NEVER END!
YES. YOU CLEARLY UNDER-STAND!
NOW... WHO SHALL I EAT FIRST?
AND I'M PROB-ABLY GONNA DIE!
WE CAN'T HELP EVERYONE THE DEMON CAPTURED!
!
SWIP



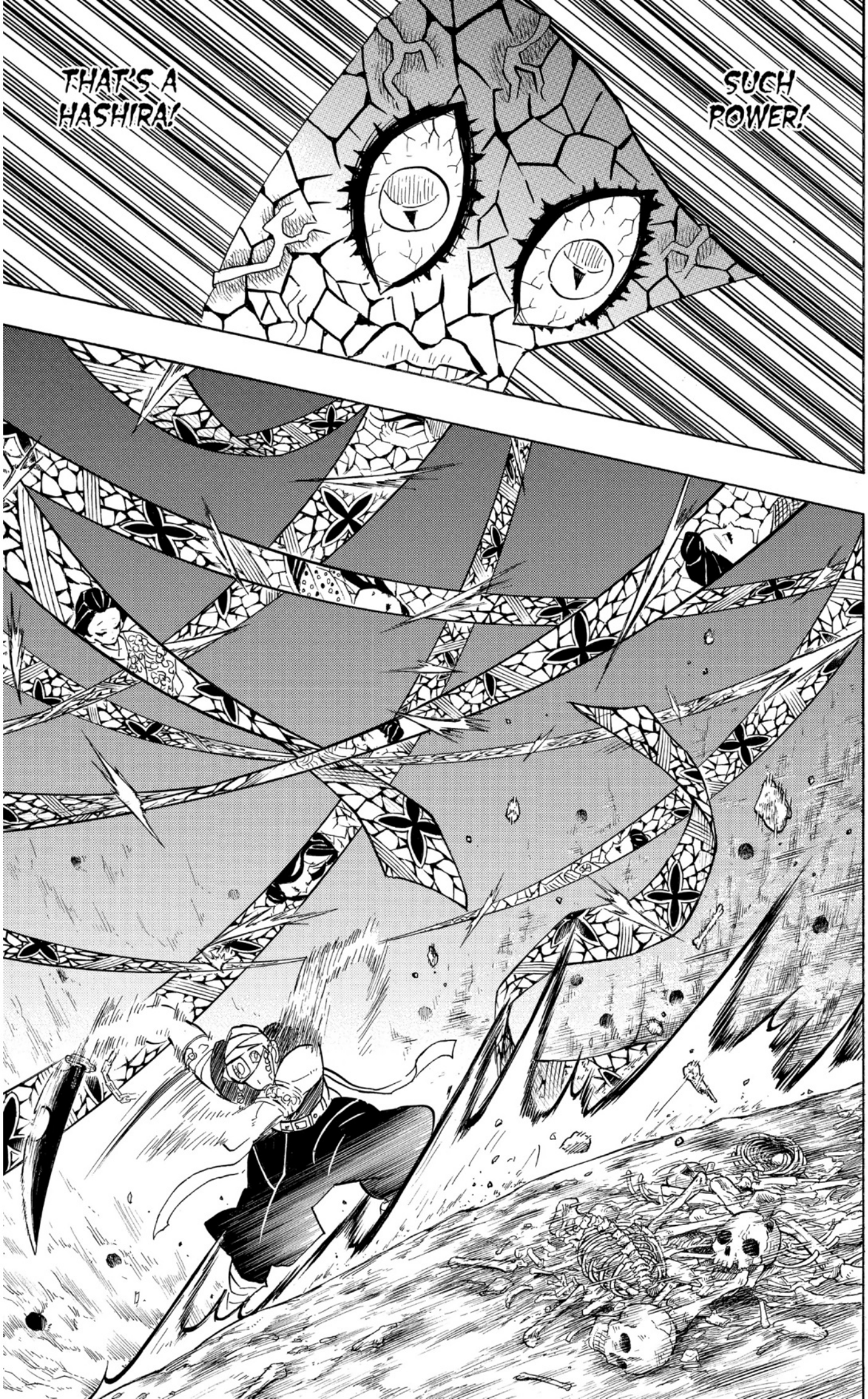
FLEX
THE MICE HAVE BROUGHT ZENITSU'S SWORD.
FLEX
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST STAY ASLEEP.
SUCH SPEED!
LOOK AT HIM GO!
BUT I THOUGHT I HEARD TWO SOUNDS.
WHY IS HE DRESSED LIKE THAT?
IS HE IN THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS TOO?
I DON'T KNOW!
BUT THE OTHER...
ONE WAS HIM.
TWO SOUNDS LIKE THUNDER.

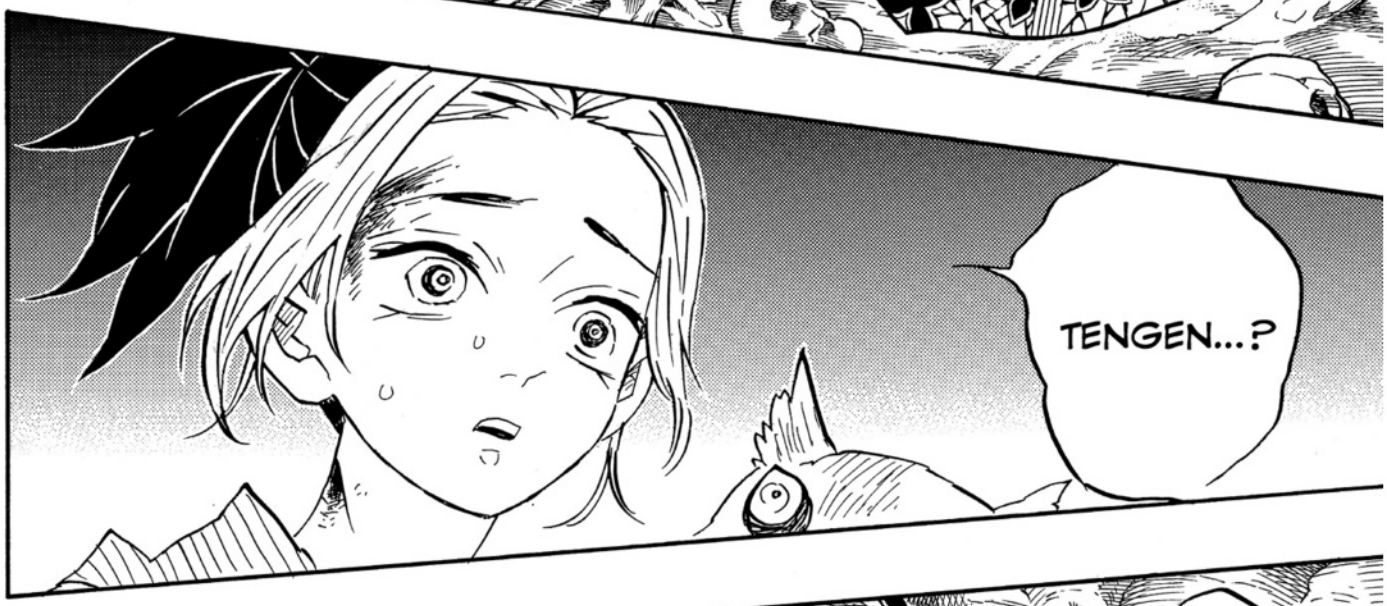
...CAME FROM ABOVE!

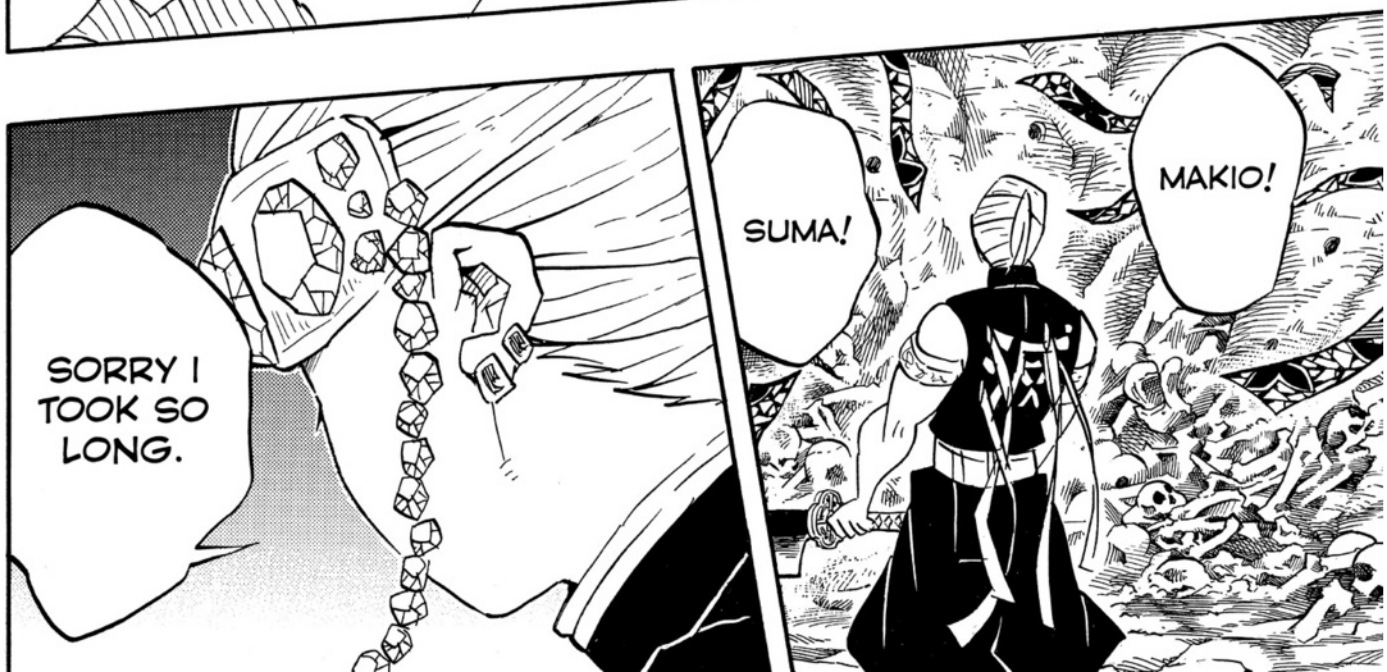

?!

WOW
WOW
B-DMP
B-DMP
WHAT ...?
OVER THERE!
AN AIR HOLE?!
IS THAT WIND?
WHAT COULD HAPPEN UP THERE TO OPEN A HOLE ALL THE WAY DOWN TO MY LAIR?
SOMEONE DROPPED IN!

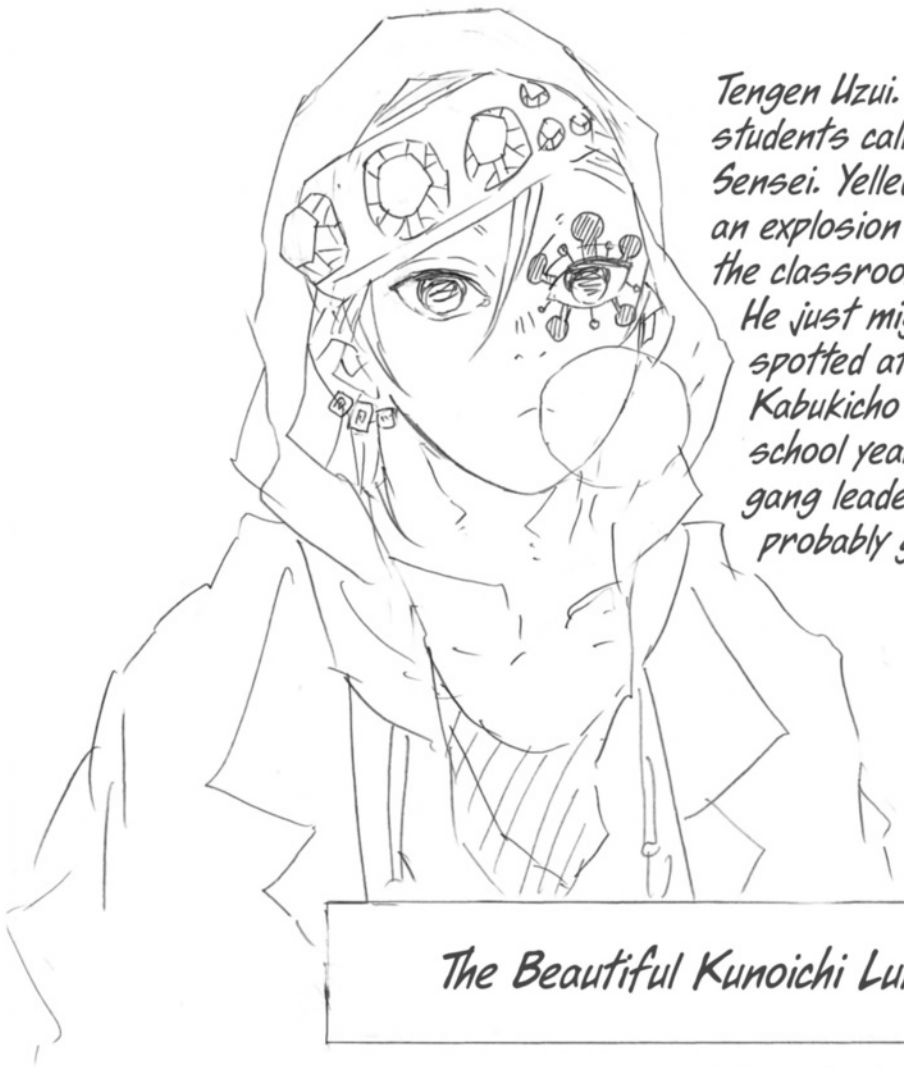
FEW
MOM
*BLADE: DESTROYER OF DEMONS


THAT'S A HASHIRA!
SUCH POWER!


TENGEN...?


MAKIO!
SUMA!
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.

BUT STARTING RIGHT NOW... THINGS ARE GONNA GET REAL FLASHY!
VOLUME 9—OPERATION: ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT (THE END)



Tengen Uzui. Art teacher. The students call him Gangsta Sensei. Yelled out that art is an explosion and then blew up the classroom with dynamite. He just might have been spotted at a fight in Kabukicho during his high school years. He was a gang leader, so he's probably good in a fight.

The Beautiful Kunoichi Lunch Ladies

Kiosk: Suma

Often gives back the wrong change.

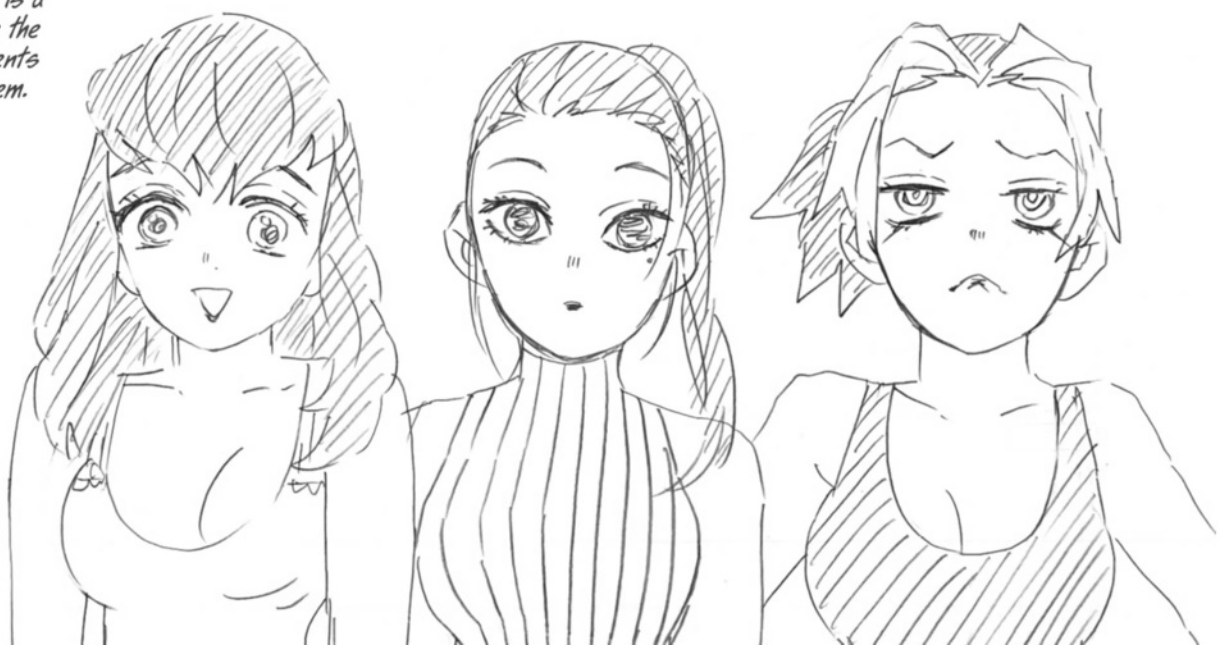
Cafeteria: Hinatsuru

She's an amazing cook. People say she has a golden palate.

Cafeteria: Makio

Speaks loudly. Works fast. Has a quick temper.

*Kunoichi is a nickname the boy students gave them.



Tamio Enmu. A big train geek. He keeps doing weird things that sometimes cause the trains to run late. He's been arrested six times. He isn't sorry about inconveniencing people, so other train fans hate him. Actually, everyone hates him. And he has no girlfriend.

Stolen camera

Kimetsu Town

Shinjuro Rengoku
Instructor at the Kimetsu Town kendo dojo. He's been depressed lately because the number of students is decreasing.

Senjuro Rengoku
Year 1, junior high. A boy who seems to be average at everything. Likes to read.

Ruka Rengoku
She teaches a calligraphy class. Her expression is nearly emotionless, so many people are scared of her at first.

POUT

...